

JPRS-LAM-85-019

26 February 1985

Latin America Report



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

NOTE

JPRS publications contain information primarily from foreign newspapers, periodicals and books, but also from news agency transmissions and broadcasts. Materials from foreign-language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed or reprinted, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [] are supplied by JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpt] in the first line of each item, or following the last line of a brief, indicate how the original information was processed. Where no processing indicator is given, the information was summarized or extracted.

Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically or transliterated are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear in the original but have been supplied as appropriate in context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by source.

The contents of this publication in no way represent the policies, views or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

PROCUREMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

JPRS publications may be ordered from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. In ordering, it is recommended that the JPRS number, title, date and author, if applicable, of publication be cited.

Current JPRS publications are announced in Government Reports Announcements issued semi-monthly by the National Technical Information Service, and are listed in the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Correspondence pertaining to matters other than procurement may be addressed to Joint Publications Research Service, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

26 February 1985

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Cuban 'Diplomatic Couriers' Seen Sowing Subversion in Latin America (Armando Cisneros; LA ESTRELLA, 14 Jan 85)	1
Caribbean Development Bank Gets Loan, Other Aid From IDB (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 4 Jan 85)	4
Barbados-Trinidad Trade Showing Brighter Prospects (Various sources, various dates)	5
Barbados Manufacturers' Views	
Value of Goods	
Barbados Mission to Trinidad	
Decline in Barbados Imports	
Assessment of Situation	

BAHAMAS

Pindling Interviewed on Drugs Inquiry, Elections (THE TRIBUNE, 19, 21 Jan 85)	9
Assessment of Commission	
Stand on Elections	
FNM, PLP Continue Political Battle Over Drugs Issue (THE TRIBUNE, various dates)	11
PLP Attack on FNM Rally, by Anthony Forbes	
Dissatisfaction in S. Andros, by Athena Damianos	
Pressure on Gomez, by Anthony Forbes	
Continuing FNM Campaign, by Colin Higgins	
Isaacs at Rally, by Colin Higgins	
Drugs Commission Counsel Ellicott Talks to Australian Press (THE TRIBUNE, 18 Jan 85)	18
Pindling Takes New Airport for Exuma Out of Budget (Anthony Forbes; THE TRIBUNE, 19 Jan 85)	20

Briefs	
BATELCO Accord With Japan	22
BARBADOS	
PRC Representatives Broaden Local, Area Contacts (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 17 Jan 85)	23
Meetings With Young Socialists NCNA Correspondents	
Arawak Cement Makes Sales to Guyana, Others in Caricom (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 4 Jan 85)	25
Text of Adams' Delayed New Year's Message to Nation (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 7 Jan 85)	27
Oil, Natural Gas Production Registering Advances (BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 3 Jan 85)	35
Union, Private Sector Group Criticize Tax Structure (Avonda Scott; BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 3 Jan 85)	36
Manufacturing Outstrips Tourism in 1983, 1984 Earnings (THE WEEKEND NATION, 11-12 Jan 85)	38
Central Bank's Quarterly Report Examines Economy (THE NATION, 16 Jan 85)	39
Less Plantation Land Planted in 1984 Than in 1983 (THE NATION, 15 Jan 85)	42
Sugar Industry Officials Examine Problem of Idle Land (THE NATION, 17 Jan 85)	43
BLP Holds Annual Conference, Is Optimistic About Future (Various sources, various dates)	44
'Settled' Election Candidates Cheltenham Address	
DLP Seen in Disarray; Sandiford's Views Examined (Henry Christopher; SUNDAY ADVOCATE, 6 Jan 85)	46
DLP Deputy Leader Sandiford Interviewed on Party Issues (SUNDAY SUN, 6, 13 Jan 85)	48
New Electoral Boundaries Commission To Be Named (THE WEEKEND NATION, 11-12 Jan 85)	54

Crime, Security Concerns Draw Increasing Attention (Various sources, various dates)	55
--	----

Durant Plea to Public
 Opposition Support for Police
 Recruitment, Other Measures
 Rejection of Joint Patrols
 PPM Leader's Views
 Special Police Squad
 Vigilante Denial
 Service Station Targets
 Derant Assurances, by Roy Morris
 Public Support

Briefs	
Coast Guard Boat in Drydock	62
UK Investment Aid	62

BOLIVIA

Marxist Political Parties Propose Joint Front (PRESENCIA, 11 Jan 85)	63
COB Secretary General To Call on Leftist Political Groups (HOY, 9 Jan 85)	65
Peasant Leader Charges Government Interference in Elections (PRESENCIA, 12 Jan 85)	66
Stoppages Attributed to Government's Impotence (PRESENCIA, 12 Jan 85)	67
Past Dictatorships Blamed for Labor Strife (PRESENCIA, 15 Jan 85)	69
Santa Cruz Labor Union To Shift Strategy (PRESENCIA, 13 Jan 85)	71
Reportage on Fifth Conference of University Rectors, Leaders (PRESENCIA, 11, 15 Jan 85)	73
Call for Political Discussion In-Depth Economic Plan Needed Opposition to Private Universities	
YPFB 1985 Plan To Generate \$390 Million in Foreign Currency (PRESENCIA, 14 Jan 85)	77
YPFB 1985 Recovery Seen Contingent on New Discoveries (PRESENCIA, 12 Jan 85)	79
Danish Loan To Finance Gas Bottling Plant (PRESENCIA, 24 Dec 84)	81

CHILE

New Decrees To Bolster Colonization Efforts (Various sources, 15 Jan 85)	82
Tax Exemptions Described	
Housing Subsidy Explained	

COLOMBIA

Ramirez Announces Betancur Travel Itinerary (Oscar Dominguez; Cadena Radial Super, 4 Feb 85)	85
Briefs	
Earthquake in Pasto	86
Police Information Chief	86

CUBA

Income, Expenditure Data From 1985 Budget Law (GRANMA, 3 Jan 85)	87
Official Publication of Social, Economic Development Plan (GRANMA, 3 Jan 85)	91
Central Committee Officially Convokes Third Party Congress (GRANMA, 2 Jan 85)	94

GUATEMALA

Roberto Carpio on DCG Post-Election Policies (Roberto Carpio Nicolle Interview; PRENSA LIBRE, 13 Jan 85)	98
---	----

JAMAICA

Economic Problems Persists; Voters Lose Confidence (LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL REPORTS CARIBBEAN, 18 Jan 85) ..	104
Government Moves To Improve Incentives for Investors (THE DAILY GLEANER, 5 Jan 85)	106
Details Concerning Price Increases on Various Petrols (THE DAILY GLEANER, 15 Jan 85)	108
New Police Commissioner Outlines Performance Standards (THE DAILY GLEANER, 8 Jan 85)	110
Top Gunman Among Four Killed by St Thomas Police (THE DAILY GLEANER, 9 Jan 85)	112
Air Jamaica Losing Money From Cuban Overflight Ban (THE DAILY GLEANER, 11 Jan 85)	113

GLENER Comments on Motives, Spirit Behind U.S. Aid (Editorial; THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 6 Jan 85)	114
One Ministry Selected as Pilot for Efficiency Experiment (THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 6 Jan 85)	115
Planning Institute Will Get Boost From IDB Grant (THE DAILY GLEANER, 14 Jan 85)	116
Briefs	
New Minimum Wages	117

MEXICO

Opposition: Disrespect for Election Results, Violence Linked (Various sources, various dates)	118
Domestic Democracy, Contadora Contrasted	
PAN Guerrilla Orientation Denied, by Joaquin Paredes	
Sonora Candidate Issues Warnings	
PSUM: Generalized Violence Possibility, by Fernando Martinez	
Admonition by PAN's Madero, by Carlos A. Medina	
State of Mexico: PAN Protests, Town Hall Occupation Continue (Jose Antonio Huicochea; EXCELSIOR, 9 Jan 85)	126
Leftist Electoral Alliance Plans for Various States Set Out (Angel Soriano; EXCELSIOR, 13 Jan 85)	128

NICARAGUA

Humberto Ortega on Historical Basis of Sandinism (Humberto Ortega Saavedra; CUBA SOCIALIST, Sep-Nov 84)....	130
--	-----

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

UPM Statement Criticizes U.S. Central American Policy (THE VINCENTIAN, 16 Nov 84)	139
Officials Report on Miami Conference on Industry (THE VINCENTIAN, 14 Dec 84)	140
DeFreitas Remarks	
Gunn Evaluation	
Guyana's Tennessee Supports Mitchell's Voting Campaign (Elvis Ollivierre; THE VINCENTIAN, 16 Nov 84)	142
Sparks Fly Over Holdup of Starch Shipment; Mitchell Replies (THE VINCENTIAN, 30 Nov 84)	143
Government Victimization Charge, by E. M. Richards	
Destabilizing Activities, Editorial	

SURINAME

Udenhout Vents Anger Over Conditional Netherlands Aid
(ANP NEWS BULLETIN, 29 Jan 85) 146

Briefs
Consul General in Amsterdam 147

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CUBAN 'DIPLOMATIC COURIERS' SEEN SOWING SUBVERSION IN LATIN AMERICA

Panama City LA ESTRELLA in Spanish 14 Jan 85 p 11

[Article by Armando Cisneros]

[Text] Mexico City (ALU)--In various parts of Latin America there have been reports of increasing strange trips by Cuban diplomatic couriers, particularly through Andean countries. Last August, the Lima newspaper EL COMERCIO published an article with the suggestive title "Too Many Diplomatic Couriers Are Arriving From Cuba," in which it reports that Cuban diplomatic officials, with the title "courier," are constantly traveling, often exceeding the number of regular passengers on scheduled flights coming from Havana; something that has attracted the attention of the employees at the Jorge Chavez Terminal. The article states that, on one occasion, eight Cuban couriers arrived on the same flight, and that neither the embassies of large countries in America nor those of Europe indulge themselves as does the Cuban diplomatic service. It adds that there is not a single diplomatic courier in Peru leaving for Cuba.

More recently, on 27 November, the Bogota newspaper EL TIEMPO published an article entitled "Invasion of Cuban Couriers in La Paz," in which it reported that an unusual number of Cuban diplomatic couriers were traveling from Lima to La Paz. The Cuban diplomatic agents, protected by international immunity, could not be searched, nor could their luggage. The incident recalls the invasion of German "tourists" into Spain immediately before World War II. The guess is that Fidel Castro is laying the groundwork in Bolivia to export the revolution to Peru, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. The theory acquires substance if we consider the fact that the Cuban commander, Armando Campos Ginesta, second chief of the Americas Department in Havana, was seen in La Paz in the middle of last year. In Bolivia, two high-ranking government officials are known Castroites: the vice minister of interior, Gustavo Sanchez Salazar, and the vice president of the republic himself, Jaime Paz Zamora. On various occasions there have been rumors circulating about the intention of forcing President Hernan Siles Zuazo to resign so that Paz Zamora might assume the presidency of the republic. The theory is reinforced by the discovery that, among the Cuban diplomatic couriers, there are individuals linked with the guerrillas, as in the case of Angel Gustavo Bruges, and his wife, Maria Ester Saleme, who were arrested for subversion in Brazil 9 years ago.

Bolivia has always held a special place in the Cuban plans for revolutionary, subversive expansion, because it lies in the center of the South American continent, with common borders with leading countries of the area. There is also the complex about the failure complex of Che Guevara's followers in Bolivia, a failure which undermined the romantic reputation of the Cuban guerrillas abroad. Hence the great interest in both the high plateau and in Colombia, where the guerrillas have been discredited by the economic business involving Kidnapping for ransom.

One of the obstacles encountered by the Castroite penetration in Bolivia is the lack of a leftist bloc in the Army. For this reason, the large number of crates carried by these Cuban couriers to La Paz, with diplomatic immunity, is disturbing. The obvious differences between the Bolivian military and Fidel's movement [words indistinct] an invitation, with all expenses paid, which the [word indistinct] issued in October of last year to the War College. But Castroism is untiring, and it succeeded in having a group of Bolivian students take off, with alleged grants, to study in Havana.

The Lima magazine CARETAS, for its part, reports on a mysterious flight which, leaving its route, flew for over 5 hours over a southern section of Peru where there are several military installations. If we add to this the fact that Armando Campos Ginesta, deputy to the notorious Manuel Pineiro in the Americas Department of the Communist Party of Cuba, visited La Paz twice last year, we shall realize the significance of all these diplomatic-political-subversive movements being carried out by the Castroites in South America.

It should be recalled that the Americas Department has been traditionally linked with Chilean and Peruvian subversives. Something is brewing in Bolivia.

As if that were not enough, EL TIEMPO of Bogota, in another issue, noted that the Bolivian vice minister of interior, Sanchez Salazar, had connections with the Cuban news agency, PRENSA LATINA, in La Paz, an agency which, in addition to its journalistic function, has been implicated in the Cuban security apparatus. Vice President Paz Zamora, for his part, also had close ties with the Cubans in Panama, who helped him to travel to Cuba to attend a conference; and since that time these political connections have been fostered, according to the Guayaquil newspaper EL UNIVERSAL, which claimed that the invitation came from Cuban Vice President Rodriguez. The ironic part of it is that, at that conference, foreign intervention in the Latin American countries was condemned, because the hosts were the very Cubans who had sent Che Guevara to Bolivia.

But there is still a great deal more on the subject. Another individual mentioned by EL TIEMPO is the Cuban charge d'affaires in Bolivia, Angel Gustavo Bruges, with vast experience in coordinating revolutionary activities, as well as his wife, Maria Ester Salame, a Bolivian citizen who was arrested in Brazil for smuggling machine guns, as was the Cuban Julian Lopez Diaz, first secretary of the Cuban Embassy, in Mexico, where he was caught taking weapons into Guatemala. As a reward, Lopez Diaz is currently the

Cuban ambassador to Nicaragua. Another failure in these activities was the explosion of weapons at the Cuban Embassy itself, in Canada.

The list would be interminable if we added the shipment of arms from Nicaragua to El Salvador and Honduras , the more recent attempt to seize control of Grenada and the endless list all over the American continent; but the disturbing situation, from an immediate standpoint, is that in Bolivia.

Is an attempt being made to force a coup so that Paz Zamora will assume the presidency? Could it be to make President Siles Zuazo more dependent? In the event of a coup, would the control or part of it not escape the reins of Castroism? Could it be to establish a beachhead to aid the Peruvian Sendero Luminoso?

Be that as it may, the nation on the high plateau has been subjected to the greatest Cuban infiltration in its history, so great is the subversive role of the Cuban official political apparatus and that of the mysterious, large, heavy crates being transmitted by the "diplomatic couriers."

2909

CSO: 3348/284

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GETS LOAN, OTHER AID FROM IDB

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is receiving US\$28.37 million (Bds\$56.7 million) in the form of two loans and a non-reimbursable technical co-operation agreement from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a CDB release said yesterday.

The CDB Board of Directors, at a meeting here last month, authorised President, Mr. William Demas to sign the three agreements with the Washington-based lending agency.

Mr. Demas was also given the go-ahead to sign a non-reimbursable technical co-operation agreement for Can\$564 990 (about Bds\$847 700) with the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

The meeting approved US\$17.3 million (Bds\$34.6 million) in financing for projects in Grenada, Cayman Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia. The approvals brought total funds approved by the CDB to US\$515 million (Bds\$1 030 million).

The release said the directors approved US\$132 000 (Bds\$264 000) to finance missions of Caribbean manufacturers to the United States,

Canada, and the European Community countries for promoting joint ventures and marketing arrangements in ornamental flowers, potted plants and foliage, sawn timber and wood-based products, among others.

The funds are coming from a grant by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to promote employment in the region.

A loan of US\$20 million (Bds\$40 million), one of two from the IDB, will be lent by the CDB to the region's More Developed Countries (MDCs) and for some sub-projects with high financial returns in the Less Developed Countries.

The second loan amounting to US\$5 million (Bds\$10 million) will be lent to finance a multi-sectoral global credit sub-programme in Guyana and the LDCs.

The non-reimbursable technical co-operation agreement for US\$3.37 million (Bds\$6.74 million) with the IDB will be used for institutional strengthening and pre-investment activities to public and private sector investors in CDB borrowing member countries.

CSO: 3298/346

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BARBADOS-TRINIDAD TRADE SHOWING BRIGHTER PROSPECTS

Barbados Manufacturers' Views

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] If initiatives, "at the right level," continue between the Governments of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, they will lead to the removal of the trade barriers currently existing between the two countries.

This was stated yesterday by President of the Barbados Manufacturers' Association (BMA), Mr. Frank DaSilva, at a press conference during which he commented on the state of trade relations between the two Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states.

"With 1985, the BMA believes there will be significant improvement in trade between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago," Mr. Da Silva said.

He welcomed the initiatives taken by both Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers to patch up relations, and the report that Mr. Chambers was considering a visit to Barbados.

"If these initiatives at the right level continue I am confident all the barriers can be broken down," Mr. DaSilva stated.

He said that Trinidad had "legitimate grievances" in its trading relations with Barbados and other CARICOM countries and he hoped that the Barbados Government was now taking steps to address these problems.

Mr. DaSilva specifically mentioned Barbados' imposition of a tax on canned soft drinks from Trinidad and called for "fair and equal access to the local market" for these food products.

"The Barbados Government should solve this long outstanding problem," he said.

The BMA leader said that Trinidad's contributions to CARICOM "were second to none" with the twin-island state having provided the biggest regional market for CARICOM products and offering a high degree of protection to manufacturers within the regional trade grouping.

"If Trinidad perceives that Barbados has removed certain impediments to trade between the two countries it will augur well for the future," Mr. DaSilva stated, adding: "The resumption of good trading relations will result in the addition of thousands of jobs in Barbados."

Stressing that there would be no "quick breakthrough in extra-regional markets," Mr. DaSilva said that it made good sense to revitalise CARICOM to reduce unemployment in the region and provide a springboard for extra-regional trade.

In his opening remarks, Mr. DaSilva welcomed the creation of a new Ministry of Tourism and said this was a move long advocated by both the BMA and the Hotel Association. "However, we are thankful we still have Mr. St. John as our Minister," he added.

Value of Goods

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 11-12 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] DURING the last trade year, Trinidad and Tobago sold Barbados about \$13 million in goods, while Barbados sold them \$5 million.

In a Press conference yesterday, president of the Barbados Manufacturers Association. Mr. Frank DaSilva, said that statistics would show that this was not a trend that would develop in the year 1985.

He said that even when the statistics were "not balanced", it did not mean the figures represented a true picture of what sort of trade would develop in the future. He said steps were

being taken to improve trade and it was an ongoing exercise.

As for the Guyana situation, Mr. DaSilva said the situation there could be improved.

He said that Guyana was a part of CARICOM, as much as any other CARICOM country, and he hoped that in 1986, with the beginning of Guyana's recovery, the other CARICOM countries would be able to help ease the situation in that country.

This, he said, was important to the survival of the CARICOM Treaty.

Mr. DaSilva said we should lay our foundation for future growth on "indigenous" manufacturing, which he said was best for the Caribbean.

Barbados Mission to Trinidad

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 17 Jan 85 p 20

[Text]

THE Barbados business community is sending a two-man delegation to Port-of-Spain today for talks with private sector representatives on how to get bilateral trade flourishing again.

Dr. Philip Goddard, president of the Barbados Chamber of Industry and Commerce, told reporters he would be making the trip with head of the Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA), Mr. Frank DaSilva.

"... With goodwill on both sides, we will be able to accomplish something," said Mr. Goddard at a news conference called to outline the chamber's plans for 1985.

Barbadian exports to Port-of-Spain have slowed following the implementation of import restrictions by Port-of-Spain almost two years ago.

Mr. Goddard welcomed recent moves by Barbados to initiate summit talks between the two countries to discuss trade and other issues.

The chamber's plans include publication of a business directory to provide potential overseas investors with up to date information on every aspect of local business. The chamber has a membership of around 170 companies.

"The purpose of this brochure

is to market Barbados abroad... from a point of view of our products and as a country for investment," Mr. Goddard said.

The publication will be distributed throughout the Caribbean, North America, and Europe.

Mr. Goddard said the chamber would step up efforts to encourage the establishment of more joint ventures between local and foreign entrepreneurs. Five such projects are to come on stream shortly, he said.

"The chamber sees one of the most rapid ways of progressing and developing as through joint venture activity," Mr. Goddard said.

The business leader said 1984 was a very difficult period for local business, but 1985 seemed to have started "reasonably well".

Mr. Goddard said the Ronald Reagan administration Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), during its first year in operation, had positive impact in the area of expanding rum sales in the United States. He was unable to say by how much.

He said there was also a lot of scope under the CXI, a 12-year aid and trade programme, for local agro-industrial products penetrating the American market.

Decline in Barbados Imports

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 17 Jan 85 p 20

[Text]

BARBADOS' imports from its major CARICOM trading partner, Trinidad and Tobago, declined dramatically up to September, last year.

According to statistics released in Trinidad, exports to Barbados were valued at \$24.7 million for the nine-month period under review; while imports from Barbados, totalled some \$63.4 million.

Trinidad trade officials said Barbados purchased 15.8 per cent of the total exports compared with the 30 percent for the

corresponding period in 1983: It was the lowest percentage since 1976.

The twin-island republic reduced a 1983 deficit of \$109.8 million in CARICOM trading to \$65.7 million up to September, last year. During the review period, Trinidad exports to the 13-nation Caribbean Community, including its main export of oil, totalled \$155.9 million.

On the other hand, CARICOM imports were valued at \$221.6 million, officials there said.

Assessment of Situation

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 17 Jan 85 p 9

[Text]

THE manufacturing industry seemingly entered the new year with optimism, higher hopes for the future of CARICOM trading and some encouraging orders for extra-regional markets.

Indeed, the announcement that Prime Minister George Chambers of Trinidad and Tobago is coming to Barbados augurs well for the local producers who have been heavily dependent on the Trinidad market. Business between Trinidad and Barbados took a downward turn when Trinidad in 1983 clapped severe trade restrictions on imports from Barbados and other CARICOM countries.

Since that unfortunate development, coupled with the strained relations between Bar-

bados and Trinidad over the Grenada invasion which was opposed by the latter and strongly supported by the former, Barbados has, more or less, been at the mercy of that oil-rich country which offered the biggest market in the region.

At a Press conference last week, president of the Barbados Manufacturing Association (BMA), Mr. Frank DaSilva, pointed to a meagre \$5 million in goods which Trinidad purchased from Barbados, as opposed to the \$13 million in merchandise that Barbados bought from Trinidad.

GREATER

He went on to say, however, that the trading potential be-

tween the two countries was much greater than what the statistics revealed. What the statistics did reveal also, was Barbados' commitment to Trinidad to buy more of its goods, a demand made by the former at the Bahamas summit last year, to all CARICOM countries, if the trading problem was to be eased.

Trinidad, by the end of September had purchased some TT\$56 million less from the region compared with the same period in 1983.

That the Trinidadians were able to sell more here last year will be one thing in Barbados' favour when Mr. Chambers visits here, and no doubt the BMA officials will favour talks with him as well, if only to express their commitment to CARICOM's well-being and to spell out the effects of not being able to penetrate the Trinidad market freely.

A change of heart on Trinidad's part could result in a turn around in the situation as outlined in the economic review of the Central Bank of Barbados, for the first nine months of 1984. It stated:

"Manufacturing activities declined by 6.6 percent largely because of the contraction of the regional market. Production of beverages and tobacco fell by 11.5 percent and chemicals were down 8.6 percent."

"Output of wearing apparel was 7.5 percent lower ... Trinidad and Tobago has not yet eased restrictions on regional imports, while the continuing scarcity of foreign exchange in Jamaica and Guyana dims the prospect of a resurgence of exports to these markets."

Of course, any improvement in the export markets and indeed the local, would mean higher or sustained employment levels, and increased revenue for the manufacturers.

With little or no support from the commercial banks, this revenue could enable the exporters to consolidate regionally while exploring the extra-regional markets.

On that score, the full realisa-

tion of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) is still a challenge for the exporters during this year, as well as the establishing of the much talked about joint ventures with extra-regional businessmen.

BREAKTHROUGH

The furniture men have made a significant breakthrough on the American market, after several years of trial and error. Now satisfied that Barbados has top quality furniture, the company, Pulaski Furniture Corporation, plans to buy some \$40 million in local furniture by the end of 1987. The first shipment of \$316 000 worth will leave on January 19.

If the garment group can do on the regional and extra-regional markets what the furniture men are achieving then there will be fewer woes this year.

Regarding the furniture deal, one does not know how many of the furniture men will or can benefit, but one hopes that a significant majority of them will.

If all does not go as well as the BMA hopes for in terms of an immediate resumption of normal trade within the region, former president of the BMA, Mr. Basil Forbes' idea of company mergers might be a good means of ensuring that more businesses do not go under and more jobs lost.

He said: "The Government will have to stimulate the business sector ... a lot of impediments will have to be removed."

One such obstacle to business growth is illegal importation of goods into the island. The committee which was set up to look into the abuse of the licensing system and the customs regulations, and which is chaired by Senator Clyde Griffith, will have to do its work.

When Mr. Chambers, attends the opening of the St. Lucy-based Arawak Cement Plant, a joint venture between Barbados and Trinidad, that optimism expressed by the BMA for better relations between the two countries is expected to materialise.

BAHAMAS

PINDLING INTERVIEWED ON DRUGS INQUIRY, ELECTIONS

Assessment of Commission

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Sir Lynden Pindling admitted last night on Radio ZNS that revelations of the recently concluded Commission of Inquiry into drug trafficking and related corruption constitute his major disappointment for 1984.

In a wide ranging, generally sober but congenial interview marking the 23rd anniversary of Mary Kelly's programme "Mary's Notebook," the Prime Minister responded to several penetrating questions.

He revealed that the cost of the nine month Commission will exceed \$2 million.

Sir Lynden, who annually appears on the interview programme, felt the Commission

was the highlight of the year and said because it occupied the thoughts of workers, the machinery of Government was slowed down.

Asked about possible results of the upcoming Parliamentary debate on the Commission's report, Sir Lynden said he did not foresee any as the debate is a political exercise.

The debate, he said, is part of the democratic process and will allow parliamentarians an opportunity to express their opinions.

Sir Lynden said the report is the report and it will stand as the report.

He suggested that people are now trying to reconcile their

conclusions about Commission evidence with the Commission's report - trying to imagine what could have been in the mind of the Commissioners which led them to make such a report.

The head of state reminded his hostess that the Commissioners heard all the evidence - something, he said, which was beyond the capacity of the man in the street.

Sir Lynden also said *The Miami Herald's* "Nation for Sale" was damaging because the writers took material out of context, without the benefit of all the evidence and - in a shorter period than the Commission - came to certain conclusions.

New issues were raised in the series, he said, and the fact and supposition was put side by side.

Sir Lynden noted that the press sensationalise stories. However he felt that, in time, the "correct" position will be put forward.

The Prime Minister estimated that the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference - scheduled for the Bahamas - will take place in October.

Reminded of the Opposition Free National Movement's call for demonstrations during the conference, Sir Lynden said this will be taken into consideration while making security arrangements.

Stand on Elections

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 21 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

THE HANDLING of his personal finances is the one thing that - looking back over the years - Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling would change.

Responding to a question from Mary Kelly Friday on her ZNS Radio programme "Mary's Notebook," the Prime Minister said he would perhaps turn the management of his personal finances over to a company as he is doing now.

A broad range of questions was put to Sir Lynden during the hour long show - on which his appearance is an annual feature.

He said relations between the Bahamas and the US have improved with the appointment of a fully accredited US Ambassador.

The erection of an aerostat balloon with radar equipment to monitor the northern region of the Bahamas was revealed and Sir Lynden foreshadowed the erection of a second balloon to cover the southern Bahamas.

He was cautious in speaking

about tourism. Not wanting to give the impression that everything is "hunky-dory," he described signs as "encouraging."

Although predicting a five per cent increase in visitors for 1985 over 1984, he said these

will be mainly cruise ship passengers who - while good for taxi drivers, straw vendors and others - will not benefit hotels.

Sir Lynden spoke of the need for an educational emphasis on English, Mathematics and Manners.

He said some students with Government scholarships have returned home and have neither worked off nor paid off their debt.

Sir Lynden said the most valuable scholarships are given by firms in Freeport.

Bahamians were able to obtain technological skills and salaries from such Freeport companies as Syntex and Borco which are unparalleled elsewhere in the country, he said.

He called 1985 a year of consolidation and redirection.

The head of state agreed that the development of Coral Harbour has not advanced and though he could not say why, suggested it might be because investors are asking for concessions which Government is not prepared to give.

Asked about "political patronage" in the Government service, he agreed it is a factor but felt two equally - if not more - important factors are failure to reprimand and difficulty in terminating workers.

He said preoccupation with the Commission of Inquiry slowed down the handling of applications by investors but now the process has been speeded up.

He repeated his statement made at last year's Miami conference on trade and industry that an average of 20 investment applications are being approved monthly.

The Prime Minister foreshadowed projects in citrus growing and timber related products.

He said the country is in an "economic upswing" but the cost of money (interests rates) and inflation will determine its future course.

"Since we have no control over either of these we should be cautious of how we go in 1985 and take advantage of the opportunities we have, not squander them, so whatever the situation looks like in 1986, if we have to make adjustments, we would be able to do so without detriment."

Reminiscing, Sir Lynden said when he entered politics he did not expect to be in office this long, but for perhaps two terms.

He said he does not foresee a general election until 1987, at the expiration of the present five-year term of office.

CSO: 3298/357

BAHAMAS

FNM, PLP CONTINUE POLITICAL BATTLE OVER DRUGS ISSUE

PLP Attack on FNM Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

NEWLY-appointed Senator Sean McWeeney, PLP National Chairman, Tuesday denounced last Saturday's protest in Freeport against the Prime Minister by the FNM, declaring that it is "absolutely monstrous" to conduct a political demonstration that is calculated to distract persons from divine worship.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Senator McWeeney charged that the FNM Action Group's demonstration as the Prime Minister attended a breakfast prayer service represents a "new low" in Bahamian politics and ought to receive "total and unreserved condemnation" from the national community.

He claimed that the demonstration "speaks eloquently" of how the FNM has taken leave of its senses and that it is as "despicable as it is pathetic" to see men who aspire to leadership reduced to that sort of "uncivilized and thoughtless behaviour."

Senator McWeeney also called on the FNM to explain how the Action Committee has gained the upper hand in the strategic direction of the party which, he said, is a "disturbing and sinister development,"

especially since the FNM hierarchy had initially disassociated itself from the group.

Over 30 members of the FNM, led by the party's three Grand Bahama MPs, Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, Pine Ridge, C A Smith, Marco City, and Maurice Moore, High Rock, staged a demonstration outside Workers House, headquarters of the Freeport branch of the Bahamas Hotel Union, where the Prime Minister was attending a prayer breakfast in commemoration of 18 years of PLP rule.

Senator McWeeney, who accompanied the Prime Minister to the Freeport service, was seen standing on the balcony of the second floor of Workers House watching the demonstration, which took place under the watchful eyes of about 20 uniformed and plainclothed police officers.

"I am quite completely mystified over what could possibly have possessed elements of the Free National Movement to stage a demonstration against the Progressive Liberal Party on the occasion of a prayer service held in Grand Bahama on Saturday past," Sen McWeeney said in his statement yesterday.

"There is, I suppose, method to their madness but it is absolutely monstrous for the FNM, or any political party for that matter, to conduct a political demonstration in a place and at a time and in a manner calculated to distract persons from divine worship," he said.

"That such a demonstration was in fact conducted speaks eloquently of just how completely the Free National Movement has taken leave of its senses," he said. "It is as despicable as it is pathetic to see men who aspire to leadership reduced to this sort of uncivilized and thoughtless behaviour."

"It represents a new low in Bahamian politics and it ought to draw from all responsible elements of the national community total and unreserved condemnation," he said.

"To that, let me add here and now that if any PLP were to hold a demonstration against the FNM while the FNM was having a prayer service, I would be the first to publicly condemn it," he said.

"We do not need this sort of thing in Bahamian politics and the quicker the FNM realises it the better off we all will be," he said.

The PLP chairman noted that the FNM "has tried to make light of its actions claiming that the demonstration did not have an interruptive effect on the prayer service."

"That is an absolute falsehood," said Sen McWeeney. "A megaphone was in virtual constant use during the prayer service and it was clearly audible inside the building where the prayer service was being conducted."

"No one told me that; I was present at the prayer service and heard it for myself," Sen McWeeney said.

He also noted that in Saturday's edition of The Tribune,

Mr Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, MP for Pine Ridge, who led the demonstration, was reported to have said that it was really not a prayer service at all because the Prime Minister had made political remarks during the service.

"I do not know where Mr Wallace-Whitfield got his information from but as he will be the first to tell you he is a great pursuer of the truth, he will be pleased to learn that the Prime Minister's participation in the prayer service was limited to the reading of a scripture lesson, pure and simple," he said.

"Indeed, Mr Wallace Whitfield will be interested to learn that when the programme was being put together in Grand Bahama several weeks ago, the Prime Minister had in fact been invited to give brief remarks but declined to do so," Sen McWeeney said.

"He similarly declined to give remarks at the prayer service in Nassau on Friday past and instead read a scripture lesson only," he said. "That, to my mind, is evidence of a man who understands the difference between religion and politics and who does not confuse the two."

"The leaders of the Free National Movement are fond of holding forth in public on the virtue of decency so the next time they saddle up on the horse of decency, I want them to explain how they propose to reconcile their posturings on the subject of decency with their crude and awfully uninspiring performance in Freeport on Saturday past," he said.

"They ought also to explain how it has come to pass that the Action Committee has gained the upper hand in the strategic direction of the FNM," Sen McWeeney said. "This is a sinister and disturbing development, particularly when it is remembered that the FNM hierarchy had initially disassociated itself from this group."

Dissatisfaction in S. Andros

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Jan 85 pp 1, 9

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpt]

FOUR SOUTH Androsians visited The Tribune this morning with a message for the Prime Minister - "Resign!"

The men, headed by Shervin Bain who, until recently, was one of Prime Minister Lynden Pindling's staunchest campaign "generals," felt that recent scandals surrounding Sir Lynden have made it incumbent upon him to resign. Mr Bain was accompanied by Amos Ferguson, David Burrows and Leroy Sands of South Andros.

Mr Bain referred to recent disclosures that Sir Lynden "diverted" more than one third of \$300,000 that the Grand Bahama Development Company donated on behalf of South Andros to his new, multi-million dollar mansion. The money was to go towards building a tourist fishing camp which would in turn create employment in Sir Lynden's underprivileged Kemp's Bay constituency. But, the project was abandoned and the money was supposed to have been given to the PLP for the 1982 election campaign.

Mr Bain also referred to

Inspector Frank Richter's testimony before the Commission of Inquiry on the Prime Minister's finances. In his report Inspector Richter said that the people of South Andros gave Sir Lynden \$16,000. The donation was made in \$100 bills. Sir Lynden made the statement to Mr Richter in explaining the source of certain funds which were not accounted for.

"That is not true. Pindling knows it's not true. The people know it's not true because nobody will say they gave it to him." Mr Bain claimed that such a gift was never made by the people, and he says Sir Lynden knows it.

Mr Bain said that more and more South Androsians are becoming fed up with Sir Lynden's idle promises and are beginning to wake up to reality.

He said that he will make sure that everybody wakes up, even if it means "ringing the bells all over the world."

"I am working night and day. I want Pindling to get my message," Mr Bain, one of three former Pindling generals who crossed over to the FNM last year, said.

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpts]

TUC Secretary General Leonard Archer charged last night that some ministers of religion tried to convince Bishop Drexel Gomez, Bahamian-born head of the Anglican Church in Barbados, not to issue his minority report which criticized Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling.

Mr Archer declared that principled clergymen should repudiate the actions of their colleagues and claimed that were it not for the minority report of Bishop Gomez, one of the three Commissioners, the long-awaited Commission of Inquiry Report would have been a "disaster."

"The Church, at times, was felt to be in the Government's back pocket because they seemed more concerned about their political masters than they were about their God," said Mr Archer, President of the Caribbean Congress of Labour.

Mr Archer, the former controversial President of the Bahamas Union of Teachers who was fired from the teaching profession by the Government in July, 1983, was the guest speaker at Bahamian Forum, a weekly lecture-discussion programme held at the Sisters of Charity Convent, West Hill Street.

He spoke on the topic, "The Commission of Inquiry Report," before a capacity audience, which included Chief Justice Telford Georges.

"And so was it that when it became known that the Bishop was going to issue a minority report, many members of the clergy went to the Bishop and tried to persuade him not to issue the report," Mr Archer said.

"And no matter how many of the pious mouthings you hear now about cleansing one's heart and all of the other things, the fact is that clergymen went to the Bishop and tried to persuade him. 'Don't do it to the chief,' I understand they said," Mr Archer added.

"Now we are all aware, I am sure, but it seems to me that the principled clergymen that are left must repudiate that behaviour on the part of some of their colleagues," Mr Archer said.

Declaring "quite frankly" that he was disappointed with the report when it came out, Mr Archer said that he was not surprised because he expected that kind of report.

"In fact, if it was not for the Bishop's minority report, I think the report would have been a disaster," the trade union leader said. "And I think one can only commend the Bishop, I think, as highly as one can for taking a courageous and a principled stand, a stand that I think was made difficult by the added pressures from some of his brothers."

He also read from the report's final conclusion dealing with the NBC report which triggered the appointment of the Commission.

That conclusion stated that from evidence heard, most of the allegations were either unfounded or not supported by the evidence or exaggerated.

"The report charged there was corruption in the country, that some drug smugglers were paying \$100,000 a month to Government officials including the Prime Minister," he said.

"If the report concluded that two members of the Government were on the take from drug smugglers, that certain members of the Police Force were taking, that Customs and all of the others were on the take, how could you arrive at the conclusion that it was exaggerated? And particularly when you couldn't give a definitive answer about the only other person the report actually named?" he asked.

Looking at the Bishop's minority report, Mr Archer said that it raises some very, very serious questions.

"If the Commission has concluded that Mr Bannister has taken money from drug smugglers, that Nottage was taking money from drug smugglers, that these two persons were the chief sources of the money to the Prime Minister, how come the money is clean when it gets to the Prime Minister?" he wanted to know.

Continuing FNM Campaign

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 18 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text]

OPPOSITION Free National Movement Chairman Cecil Wallace-Whitfield last night called on party supporters to be on Bay Street at the opening of the House of Assembly - February 6 - because a "very important" debate will be taking place.

Reconvening after the Christmas break, the House will have an opportunity to begin debate on the report of the Commission of Inquiry into drug trafficking and related corruption.

Mr Whitfield, also MP for Pine Ridge, was among several speakers who joined with party leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, to open the Market Street headquarters of the Action Group of the FNM.

The Action Group, made up of party branch executives from "all over the black belt," plans a "continuous and incessant campaign against Lynden Pindling," primarily in traditional Progressive Liberal Party strongholds.

Mr Isaacs referred to the way Sir Lynden obtained gifts of money to build his Skyline Drive mansion.

He referred to Sir Lynden's refusal to step down from office and said the Bahamian people are "the judge and the jury."

Mr Isaacs told listeners Sir Lynden's colleagues are keeping him in power and are, therefore, just as guilty as he is. Sir Lynden, the gathering was told, has lost the "moral right" to govern.

The former Attorney General touched on matters arising out of the arrest in Eleuthera of former FNM election candidate Dr David Sands for "disorderly behaviour." He said PLP Governor's Harbour MP and Minister of Transport Philip

Bethel is "driving" people into the arms of the FNM.

Mr Isaacs praised the work of the Action Group.

Mr Isaacs said "political enemies" want to take advantage of the formation of the Action Group.

He said from what has been seen and heard so far, "the Action Group is as much a part of the FNM as I am or the Chairman is."

National Chairman Whitfield congratulated the Action Group for its concern for the area and for the young who are facing difficult times.

He advised Attorney General Paul Adderley to take "quite seriously" the cases submitted to him by the Commission of Inquiry for further study with a view to possible prosecution.

He said the PLP has been in power for 18 years, but has done nothing for the people. He predicted the people will rise up and "kick" the PLP out of power.

There is a lot wrong with the country and "soon and very soon all of us will meet on the Paradise Island bridge," he told the Action Group, a member of which has promised the temporary closure of the controversial causeway in an act of protest.

Mr Whitfield also said "we would like to see" as many FNM supporters as possible on Bay Street on February 6th because a very important debate will be taking place in the House of Assembly.

Other speakers for the evening included Oscar Johnson, George Wilson, Lester Turnquest, Derek Simms, Arlington Butler and Oswald Marshall.

A cross-section of the community attended the opening ceremony and the evening was filled with music, laughter and refreshments.

Isaacs at Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text] "THE PEOPLE" are the jury of the Commission of Inquiry and they have returned a "guilty" verdict, Opposition Free National Movement (FNM) leader Kendal G.L. Isaacs, QC, told supporters in Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera on Wednesday.

Of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling he said: "We will not rest until he and his wicked PLP are removed from office."

After marching former FNM parliamentary candidate Dr David Sands to court where he pleaded not guilty to a charge of disorderly behaviour, placard-bearing supporters gathered at Bay Front Park in the Eleuthera capital to hear Commission revelations and scathing denunciations of Sir Lynden and his Progressive Liberal Party Government.

Addressing the exuberant gathering of about 50 were Mr Isaacs--Dr Sands' counsel--Frank Watson (FNM Carmichael MP), Arthur Foulkes (FNM Blue Hills MP) and FNM Senator Charles "Chuck" Virgil--all of whom flew in Wednesday morning from New Providence.

Fred Mingo, FNM parliamentary candidate in the 1982 elections chaired the short rally.

Within sight of the pink two-storey building housing the Commissioner's office, post office and courtroom and the scenic sun-washed vista of sailing boats resting in a calm deep-blue bay, young and old cheered and shouted comments while carrying placards that said:

"L O is a UBP," "Time for a change," "L O P must go," "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," "The evil that man do, lives after him," "This is Eleuthera (Freedom) not Russia," "Injustice to anyone is injustice to all."

Dr Sands described the day as a "momentous" one in the history of Eleuthera which he said means freedom.

"I have made a New Year's resolution that I am tired of the victimisation by the PLP and I am not going to take it any more," the medical doctor said. "I am resolved to continue a campaign of civil disobedience. I will not be intimidated."

He said he would not obey laws that come from a corrupt government.

Mr Isaacs called the day a "landmark" one which shows that some are no longer prepared to accept the "victimisation Government is handing out."

He said he thinks the people of Eleuthera "have had enough."

The Commission of Inquiry commented on the "very weak public opinion" in the Bahamas, said Mr Isaacs. He said the attitude taken on certain issues is: "That doesn't concern me, that concerns the other fellow. Therefore I am not going to do anything about it."

This is the way dictatorships develop, said Mr Isaacs. Eventually "all will be sucked in."

"We have made up our minds that we are not going to take this nonsense any longer," the Opposition leader proclaimed. "If we don't stand up, someone else will be victimised."

He said eventually PLPs will be victimised and cited the cases of former Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna (who resigned), Hubert Ingraham and Perry Christie (who were dismissed).

"Because they stood up and said they did not like what L O did, they were fired."

Mr Isaacs said there is evidence that two persons were removed from their positions on Government boards because of their relationships with Bishop Drexel Gomez (who delivered a dissenting report on the Prime Minister's finances) or deposed ministers.

He called for the erection of a statue of Bishop Gomez, the only Bahamian on the Commission of Inquiry, "for having the courage to stand up and say what he did."

"The name of Bishop Gomez will go down in history as a man of courage," he said.

The gathering was told that the FNM was not "all that concerned" about the Commission's report, but was concerned about the evidence "because you are the jury."

Other speakers examined findings by the Commission that former Minister George Smith "corruptly accepted" money from a drug smuggler and that former Minister Kendal Nottage was "fronting" for a member of a Mafia family, even if unknowingly.

They spoke about the financing of the Prime Minister's Skyline Drive mansion and several other matters while calling for his resignation.

"Let us keep the faith," said Mr Isaacs. "let us be courageous. The time will come when the people will sit in judgement on L O and I am sure that when that day comes, the verdict will be L O gotta go!"

CSO: 3298/358

BAHAMAS

DRUGS COMMISSION COUNSEL ELlicOTT TALKS TO AUSTRALIAN PRESS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 18 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

ROBERT Ellicott, QC, - chief counsel to the recent Commission of Inquiry into drug trafficking and corruption in the Bahamas - told a newspaper in his native Australia last month: "You can see, in the Bahamas, a small community where the greed for money suddenly descended on them.

"Big money was used to bribe police, government officials, politicians and ordinary people to the point where corruption just became part of the economy."

The *Weekend Australian* of December 22-23 carried two pages of stories and pictures on the Bahamas entitled: "A Nation for Sale."

The "special focus" presentation carries quotations and pictures from the Miami Herald's feature of the same name which outlined revelations about drug trafficking through the Bahamas and the attendant corruption of prominent persons.

One article of the feature traces highlights of the Commission, up to the delivery of its report.

Another examines the part played by Everette Bannister, friend and business associate of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling.

Another - entitled "Charismatic PM rules from \$2.5m mansion" - features an aerial shot of Sir Lynden's "palatial home" and begins: "Though the average Bahamian earns less than \$4,000 a year, Prime Minister Sir Lynden Oscar Pindling has done very well for himself."

Photographs of marijuana being air-dropped, cheques of thousands of dollars paid to or for the Prime Minister and a map of the Bahamas showing where 14 drug smugglers operated are featured.

In an article written by Errol Simpler, Mr Ellicott is quoted as saying about Australia: "When you have large-scale drug trafficking, as appears to be the case here, one shouldn't be surprised to find widespread corruption in police, political, judicial and high-finance circles."

Said Mr Ellicott: "I think what has happened in the Bahamas contains a message for every crime authority in the world."

He says in some cases in the Bahamas, drug trafficking took the place of traditional pursuits like fishing.

"You see, people actually thought what they were doing was all right in many cases. It was justifiable to them because

they felt drugs were getting to the United States and that they were going to get through anyhow, regardless of what they did.

"What happened, though, was that drug operators started selling to local peddlers who then started selling to their own youth. The result is the Bahamas now has the highest level of free-basing cocaine...in the world.

"Even young children became involved. Yet, here was a country where people thought it (the drug trade) wouldn't do them any harm. It corrupted officialdom and became a way of life. There is evidence that lawyers were involved in the corruption, both in the administration of justice and also in taking positive steps to aid drug operations," said Mr. Ellicott.

Talking about the Commission, he said, "You have to go in and get your evidence in an aggressive manner.

"Evidence might 'disappear.' And it has to be called as it becomes available. An investigation might produce evidence that begins a chain of

inquiry where people might supplement that evidence at a later date.

"I believe you can raise matters in the public interest and at the same time give people an opportunity to protect themselves. The Bahamian inquiry was able to make findings after hearing both sides."

Says the article: "He (Mr. Ellicott) comes back to something he regards as unequivocal: 'If you have large-scale drug trafficking then, almost certainly, there is corruption in the police and probably in the political area. And you can assume that large-scale finance is being supplied by persons in the community.

"The discovery of that corruption has to involve the most sophisticated forms of investigation. Identification of it doesn't necessarily involve making unfounded allegations. But crime-fighting authorities have to have access to bank records and documents, they must be able to work in secrecy and they must have the facility to be able to protect and look after witnesses."

CSO: 3298/357

BAHAMAS

PINDLING TAKES NEW AIRPORT FOR EXUMA OUT OF BUDGET

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Jan 85 pp 1, 12

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpts] George Town, Exuma: Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling bluntly told the Exuma Chamber of Commerce Friday night that it is not "possible" for the island to have a new airport this year because other infrastructure, such as roads, electricity and communications, has to come first.

Later during a question and answer period, the Prime Minister said that it was he as Minister of Finance who had dropped the airport from the 1985 budget because he knew that it could not be built this year. He said he accepted the full responsibility for that.

But Rolleville MP George Smith, former Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government, jumped to the defence of the Prime Minister as he was being questioned by Exuma Chamber members about the proposed new airport, saying it was "unfair" to engage the Prime Minister in that kind of discussion.

The Prime Minister told Mr Smith, who resigned on October 8, 1984, over the allegations against him at the Commission of Inquiry, that he would answer the questions.

Last night's event was one of the three functions the Prime Minister will attend during a weekend swing through Exuma, the others being the opening of a business in Williams Town today and the dedication service of a church in Rolleville on Sunday.

Also making remarks at the meeting were George Town MP Livingstone Coakley, Minister of Labour, Youth, Sports and Community Affairs and Mr Smith, the Rolleville MP and former Cabinet Minister.

The Prime Minister's speech appeared to be a direct reply to the points listed by Chamber President Vernon Curtis, who called for significant infrastructural improvements if Exuma is to receive other commitments to its development.

Mr Curtis listed the upgrading of the present airport or the construction of a new one, upgrading of roads, improvements in air, electricity and telephone services, reduction of bureaucratic red tape and the provision of greater incentives for investment in Exuma, as some items needing attention.

"It is not going to be possible to have a new airport in Exuma in 1985," the Prime Minister told Exumians. "I had hoped that it would have been possible, but it is not going to be possible in 1985."

Saying he heard the question "when?" from someone in the audience, the Prime Minister declared: "Tonight I am not even able to tell you when."

Telling Exumians why, he added: "The kind of airport that Exuma would need to have in the late 1980s and beyond is to cost at least \$5 million. seven million is the latest figure."

"So the airport really is not the point to begin. The airport ought not to come at the beginning stage, the airport ought to come in proper planning, this is what I am apprised, later on in the stage," the Prime Minister said.

"What is really required is first, a good ground road system, a good communications system and features on the ground that will service the people that you want to come to use a \$5 million to \$7 million facility," the Prime Minister said.

"It would be madness to have a \$5 million airport and it takes him one hour to fly here from Miami and it takes him an hour to get to his hotel over the big holes in the road," the Prime Minister pointed out.

CSO: 3298/358

BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

BATELCO ACCORD WITH JAPAN--An \$8 million plus project to improve telephone communications in the south east Bahama islands got underway with the August signing in Tokyo, Japan of a contract between Sumitomo Corporation, NEC Corporation and the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation (BATELCO). The contract was signed August 13 and is for the supply of troposcatter radio systems. "The project will link Cockburn Town, San Salvador into the national telephone network via Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera," says a BATELCO release. "It will also link Crooked Island, Acklins Island, Ragged Island and Mayaguana into the national network via George Town, Exuma." Signing the August 1984 contract on behalf of BATELCO were Sinclair Outten, MP, then chairman of the board, and Robert Bartlett, General Manager. The overall cost of the project, including buildings and civil works, exceeds \$8 million. [Excerpt] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Jan 85 p 8]

CSO: 3298/358

BARBADOS

PRC REPRESENTATIVES BROADEN LOCAL, AREA CONTACTS

Meetings With Young Socialists

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 17 Jan 85 p 2

[Excerpt]

The League of Young Socialists, youth arm of the ruling Barbados Labour Party, met with officials of the Chinese Embassy earlier this week as part of its programme to establish contact and relations with a number of foreign youth organisations.

It is expected that a series of meetings and consultations with those countries which have embassies or high commissions in Barbados will be held this year.

This week's meeting looked at the possibilities of establishing links with youth organisations from the People's Republic of China, and at the same time to identify how the embassy could assist the Young Socialists in the development of its library facilities, its educational drive, a vocational guidance programme; and the construction of a relief centre to house fire-victims.

The Chinese delegation including Counsellor Shi Yong Bim and the Second Secretary, Tao Ruirui, gave explanations of the objectives, structure and activities of the Youth League of China's Governing Party. The Chinese League has 14 million members, and Mr. Tao promised to establish relations between the League of Young Socialists and the Chinese Youth League so as to foster mutual understanding, friendship, cultural ties and sporting links between the two youth organisations.

The local Chinese Embassy will also be making a donation of books and promotional literature to the Library of the League of Young Socialists.

There are to be follow-up meetings between the B.L.P.'s youth arm and other departments of the Chinese Embassy to explore specific issues and pursuits.

NCNA Correspondents

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 17 Jan 85 p 2

[Text]

Barbados and the Caribbean which have become a major focal point for international

news agencies are being given added exposure. This time it is in China which has despatched two

correspondents to the region.

The two men Mr. Hao Fusheng and Mr. Ding Boazhong are temporarily attached to the Chinese Embassy in Barbados.

They are correspondents of the Xinhua News Agency (which means New China News Agency), a state owned body set up in 1949 after the founding of the Peoples Republic of China.

They said they will be sending reports of Barbados and other Caribbean islands back to the homeland which is starved for information on the Caribbean mini states.

Xinhua will join Reuters, Associated Press, United Press International among others which include some coverage on this region in the dissemination of information.

The two men said they saw their role in the Caribbean as helping to promote the friendship and understanding between the Chinese people

and those in the Caribbean.

"We want to cement the ties of friendship with developing countries, as you know our country is developing, and our people know not much about your people," Mr. Ding said.

"Therefore we will be providing that link between your people and our people so that we can learn more about one another," Mr. Ding said.

The New China News Agency has a staff of over 5 000 with correspondents in over 90 countries and in the provinces of that country, according to Mr. Hao.

They work in the Caribbean will involve filing reports of important events back to the agency.

They will also be seeking to establish contacts with local media personnel and on Tuesday visited a number of media offices in Bridgetown.

They spoke on the importance which their country attached to its foreign relations with other states.

CSO: 3298/347

BARBADOS

ARAWAK CEMENT MAKES SALES TO GUYANA, OTHERS IN CARICOM

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 4 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] A two-year contract for the shipment of cement to Guyana has been secured by the Arawak Cement Company Limited.

Marketing Manager of the Company, Mr. Vanburn Gaskin, said yesterday the first shipment of 650 tonnes to the South American country will be made this month.

The cement will be used in a special irrigation project and Mr. Gaskin said regular shipments will be delivered through to April 1987.

The plant also made its first shipment to Dominica yesterday, the first of regular shipments to that country.

The plant has made significant inroads in the Caricom market since it began operations on a trial basis in May last year.

"We operated reasonably well in 1984 in that we were able, in a short period, to get ourselves into most of the English-speaking Caribbean countries," Mr. Gaskin said.

He said there was some disappointment in not having larger volumes of cement sold to Trinidad, whose Government owns 49 per cent shares in the company.

Mr. Gaskin added that because of this they have had to make up the slack in other areas.

"We still need the Trinidad market as a base market for Barbados cement but we have got into the Caricom countries and Puerto Rico," the Marketing Manager said.

The Arawak Cement Company's sales have been increasing every month. Up to the end of November 51 000 tonnes of cement were exported.

Mr. Gaskin said the company was holding its own amidst problems with the downturn in the economy of most of the Caribbean countries and the construction industry being somewhat slowed.

As far as extra-regional markets were concerned, Mr. Gaskin noted that the cement has been tested in the United States and it surpassed all the tests indicating that the cement had potential on that market.

One of the major difficulties of the company last year was not having an exclusive shipping vessel.

Mr. Gaskin said the company was negotiating seriously with some shipping companies for "at least two dedicated vessels."

The Arawak Cement Plant is capable of producing 1 000 tonnes of cement daily.

But since its trial runs started it has been producing in excess of this amount.

CSO: 3298/347

BARBADOS

TEXT OF ADAMS' DELAYED NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO NATION

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Jan 85 p 9

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams last night outlined plans by his Barbados Labour Party administration for this country over the next 12 months.

He made the announcements during his New Year's Message which was broadcast on radio and television.

The Prime Minister who touched on the very topical matter of crime also announced the establishment of a new Ministry of Tourism and Environment as well as named two new BLP Senators to the Upper House.

Following is the full text of the Prime Minister's New Year's message:

"My New Year Message this year comes so late that it may better be described as a State of the Nation message, but I shall not confine myself just to an account of 1984 and to the economic prospects of the country. In 1985 the Government will not only be carrying out or continuing the programmes of public works already announced, but shall be taking new initiatives in some areas and the Government's team to tackle our country's problems will be strengthened. I shall refer to all of this in due course.

"But first to the year just past. 1984 has been perceived as a difficult year for Barbados. The attention of the media has rested relentlessly on unemployment, business failures, bad trading and other relations within CARICOM and crime. While it is true that world recession has continued to have a hold-over effect on our economy, I do not agree that 1984 was a year quite so much without hope as the Press would have us believe, and the optimism and confidence shown par-

ticularly at Christmas time fortifies me in this view. On the negative side there were indeed many adverse factors. Crime increased by 5-6 per cent during the year, and the number of unemployed rose from 17 500 at the end of 1983 to 19 000 in the middle of 1984, a figure which the Government regards as unacceptably high.

"There are those who suggest that we should look back to the end of 1975, when there were only 82 000 people at work in our island and as many as 23 900 unemployed, and be thankful that the number is so much smaller today although the work force has considerably increased. But I regard those as the bad old days from which our Government has carried the island forward, and I prefer to look at hopeful signs for the future and aim again at seeing over 100 000 Barbadians at work as in 1981. And there is some promise for the future.

"Unemployment can be reduced only if the economy rests on a sound base with a reasonably secure balance of payments and adequate government revenue. In 1984 there were signs that these criteria were being met.

"Our foreign reserves rose by \$9 million during the year, and Government revenue rose from \$518 million to \$564 million. Inflation fell to less than 5 per cent, the lowest rate for many years. The number of tourists coming to Barbados increased by 10 per cent from January to October, 1984 compared to the corresponding period in 1983, and over the same period our exports rose from \$539 million to a new record of \$666 million. Notwithstanding the frequent complaints of the Barbados Manufacturers' Association, a body which I fear has become unrepresentative of the industry and overly political in character, our earnings from exports of manufactured goods now exceed our

earnings from tourism. Overall, our economy is expected to show growth of 2.4 per cent in 1984 after two years of no real growth. Per capita income for 1984 is being forecast at over US\$4 000.

CARICOM RELATIONS

"Now to turn to more specific issues. During 1984 there was an intensification of the difficulties being experienced the trading relationships within Caricom, difficulties which go back to the early part of 1983, long predating the political difficulties which arose after the Grenada rescue mission. Efforts to revive the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility remained frustrated during the year and the growth of trade continued to be impeded by the imposition of various obstacles. However, during the Nassau Summit in July, the Council of Ministers agreed upon a package of proposals designed to re-stimulate trade and encourage more liberal trading practices in the region.

"Barbados, as a country for which intra-regional trade is of major importance, has a vested interest in promoting improvements in trading arrangements in Caricom. As evidence of good faith, we were the first country to implement the Nassau package in its entirety.

"The Government attaches particular priority to the improvement in trade, in both goods and services, with Trinidad and Tobago, the Caricom country with which Barbados has the closest commercial and financial links. The two countries are joint owners of the Arawak Cement Company which is an outstanding example of successful collaboration between two Caribbean countries in the exploitation of indigenous materials. In banking and insurance, manufacturing and tourism and especially in the area of air transport, the interests of the two countries are closely linked.

"It is the desire and wish of the Government of Barbados that the difficulties which have appeared in the bilateral relationships between the two countries be resolved in an atmosphere of cooperation and compromise, and that the special relationship which has always existed between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago and which has been an important element in the stability of the Eastern Caribbean be re-established and strengthened. I have accordingly written to the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago expressing my hopes that any difficulties outstanding between our countries be resolved and I have extended an invitation to him to pay an official visit to Barbados at a date convenient to him, when we may jointly participate in the

official opening ceremonies of the Arawak Cement Plant.

"I referred a moment ago to the Grenada Rescue Mission. I am sure that all Barbadians will join with me in welcoming the successful conclusion of our efforts to restore democratic government to Grenada. A year ago I thanked the people for the support given to the Government's initiatives taken in October, 1983. As 1984 unfolded, Barbados' contribution to peacekeeping, law and order, education and the electoral process in Grenada expanded. Elections were held in the island for the first time in eight years and I wish to offer my very heartiest congratulations to the newly elected Government of Prime Minister Blaize and his Ministers as they embark on the task of rehabilitating their rescued island.

SPEIGHTSTOWN FLOOD

"I have already touched on the general pattern of development in Barbados in 1984. I would add only one special feature of the year just past, the exceptional rainfall of late October and November which led to the Speights-town flood. 1984 was a wet year in our island, but the rainfall in St. Peter on October 31 was unprecedented and led to flooding in the low lying areas in and around Speightstown. I want now to thank all concerned for the exceptional relief efforts which were put forth to help the affected districts and citizens, and to say that out of evil sometimes comes forth good since the work of cleaning up after the flood has led to the speeding up of the implementation of many of the projects proposed on the Speightstown Development Plan.

"The Government intends a general rehabilitation of the residential districts of St. Peter and an overall improvement of the local environment. With a large and beautiful hotel complex for visitors just north of the town, we can do no less than beautify the areas where our own citizens live. Speightstown beach, right down to Road View and Mullins will also be improved in the works expected to be started later in the year on the new Northern Fishing Harbour.

PUBLIC WORKS

"Other public works which will be ongoing in Barbados in 1985 are centred mainly on transport facilities. Work has already started on the new Fairchild Street Bus Stand. This \$3.6 million modern facility will include a Departure Concourse, a Public Hall, Staff Facilities as well as booths for vendors. It is designed to remove the competition for space which now exists between buses and passengers, and

which contributes to the pushing and general chaos at rush hours when buses are likely to be full. The new system will deliver passengers in enclosed channels to the buses and the occasion of rushing and pushing should thereby be removed.

"In time, other terminals will be constructed at down-town Bridgetown, and in Speightstown for commuters in the northern parishes. Plans are also being made to upgrade the bus terminal at Oistins in the south of the island.

"Publicity has already been given to the \$60 million programme for road rehabilitation being undertaken with the assistance of the World Bank, and work has started on a number of the roads. It is being carried out by the Ministry of Transport and Works, which I would like to commend for the speed and in many cases, economy with which it has applied itself to the new programmes.

"Although it may be a little invidious to select an individual for mention when many other people throughout Government may also have striven hard I will on this occasion single out David Cumberbatch, the young acting Superintendent in charge of the project to rehabilitate the Mangrove road at Black Bess, St. Peter. On a project designed to cost \$409 000 and take 13 weeks to complete, he and his MTW team have reduced the cost by at least 25-30 per cent and brought forward the completion date by 3-4 weeks without any reduction of standards. If this example of dedication and efficiency were followed throughout Government the taxpayers' money would be much better spent.

"Finally, I would also wish publicly to express my thanks to the Ministry for formulating a programme, presented to Cabinet at its first meeting for 1985, of road building and repairs for tenancies and other residential districts. The Government does not intend to neglect the needs of our citizens who live in rocky and muddy places while we build major highways. We have mobilised funds from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Transport Levy for the big roads, the bridges and the buses and facilities for the Transport Board. These are the special programmes.

"The programmes for disadvantaged residential areas are being paid for by the ordinary revenues of the Ministry of Transport and Works, and the beginning of 1985 will see work start at Drax Hall and Belair, St. George; Endeavour, St. James; and Thompson's Land, Stuart's Land and Hurley Land, St. Michael. There are many

other areas scheduled for roadworks during the year.

"I am happy to report that the consultants for the Island's biggest new highway have recommended that the contract be awarded at \$45 million to a Barbadian contractor. The Tenders Committee and Cabinet have agreed, and the award has been submitted to the Inter-American Development Bank for final approval for work to start this month. The road will consist of three sections between Black Rock, Warrens, Wildey and the Airport and work will commence on all three simultaneously.

"Other public works to be carried out in 1985 include the \$24 million Bridgetown Fishing Harbour. This will be constructed north of the Careenage, with the new Fishing Terminal situated between Trevors Way and the old Fish Market. This project represents Government's contribution to the developments now going on in Bridgetown and around Carlisle Bay.

"Few private sector commercial projects of the last few months hold out as much promise for the development of Bridgetown as the recently opened waterfront cafe-restaurants, one on the Careenage and others by the Harbour Police Station. If the City can be established as a centre for more evening dining and entertainment, we will have taken a great step forward in diversifying our ancillary tourist attractions, and the Government intends to play its part in improving the physical facilities of the inner city and the waterfront area.

"The new Central Bank Building will be completed in 1985, and later in the year two more institutional headquarters buildings will be started. The Insurance Corporation of Barbados is now deciding on the design of its new headquarters to be built on the old Modern High School site in Roebuck Street, and the Barbados Development Bank is finalising the financing for its permanent home in Hincks Street. This will also contribute to the improvement of the waterfront area.

"At nearby Cheapside, 1984 saw the completion of the new building for the General Post Office. The new structure has given the Post Office the opportunity to streamline and improve postal services. Longer business hours have already been instituted and an express mail service introduced. The new Post Office building is the biggest of the developments which will change the face of Cheapside up to the Lower Green. This will itself be enlarged and will eventually cease to be a busstand and car park when the new Princess Alice busstand is completed. The Green

will then be joined to the Jubilee Gardens to provide a large square around which traffic will circulate. Cheapside Market and the areas adjacent are also due for upgrading.

"Responsibility for the Post Office is a part of the portfolio of the Ministry of Information, which includes Communications. 1984 was an eventful year for electronic communications in Barbados, when the Government and people of the island became major shareholders in the newly established Barbados External Communications Ltd. which has replaced Cable and Wireless Ltd. of London as the company responsible for our external communications. And as Barbadians are by now aware, construction of a new satellite dish aerial at CBC brought the Olympic Games live into our homes and we are now woken up daily by cable news from North America. CBC is preparing to start construction at Whitepark in Bridgetown of a new broadcasting station, and studios and offices for sound radio. The studios and facilities at the Pine will be upgraded for television work in preparation for the second T.V. channel soon to be introduced.

HOUSING

"Housing remains a primary concern of the Government and it was during the latter half of last year that Kensington Lodge Housing Project on Passage Road was officially opened. Already keys to 24 of the complete units have been handed over to tenants. The remaining units are expected to be allocated by the end of this month.

"This modern multi-storied housing project is the only one of its type in the city and boasts all essential utilities including natural gas. Two other housing projects are expected to be re-started during the year, those at Maynards in St. Peter and Lammings in St. Joseph. Together these projects are expected to add almost 100 new units to the Government's housing stock.

"In 1984 the National Housing Corporation started its Sites and Services Programme on locations throughout the island. To date, applications for sites in the programme has been overwhelming and many more are expected to be processed this year. The Corporation is at present selecting the first purchasers on criteria that are intended to ensure that persons establishing a first permanent home receive priority in the allocation of house spots.

"The Housing Credit Fund Programme has also gone a long way towards improving the availability of

housing finance, especially for the low income sector. Over 1,000 people have benefitted so far from this programme.

ENERGY

"One of the success stories of 1984 has been petroleum production, combined with energy conservation in Barbados. Domestic oil production has been so impressive that at the end of the year we were producing half of our petroleum requirements and have expanded our proven reserves to the point where we can now plan to become completely self-sufficient. In 1984 we produced 630,000 barrels of oil compared to 380,000 in 1983, out of a total requirement of 1.2 million barrels. During the year we actually exported 45,000 barrels of oil to Curacao and expect that we will have to export increased quantities in 1985 because of lack of storage facilities and because we are already producing more diesel fuel than the island can use.

"A careful analysis of the future of oil production and refining in Barbados has been undertaken and it has been decided that under present circumstances the local refinery should be retained. The Barbados National Oil Company has continued to make a handsome profit on the production facilities taken over from the Mobil Corporation in June, 1982, and the local refinery has made a very substantial profit in 1984. The Government is accordingly, as from the 15th of this month restructuring the pricing system for refined petroleum products so as to shift some of that profit towards the small gasoline stations of the island that have provided so sterling a service to motorists in recent years when, as a result of energy conservation consciousness, consumption of petroleum products has not risen while costs of retailing them have gone up.

"Natural gas production has also increased, and a number of districts in the island were piped with natural gas during 1984 including New Orleans in Bridgetown, Fairfield, Rock Dundo Park, Friendship Terrace, and parts of Bush Hall and Station Hill. In 1985 natural gas is targeted for the remainder of Bush Hall, Clermont Park and Lodge Terrace, St. Michael, Orange Hill, St. James and Fire Hill and Welches in St. Thomas.

"A plant to produce Liquefied Petroleum Gas — i.e. the gas we use in gas cylinders — will be established in 1985 on a site close to the Woodbourne Oil and Gas Field, so as to reduce our dependence on imported cylinder gas. Studies have just been completed for construction, before the end of the year,

of a plant to generate electricity from domestic and commercial refuse, thus attacking both our energy and garbage disposal problems.

TOURISM

"I have already referred to the improved levels of tourist arrivals for 1984. Tourist spending is now projected to rise to the record level of \$550 million for the year, and even though this has been overtaken by the value of exports of manufactured goods, in most ways tourism remains our top industry. The fortunes of tourism in Barbados depend on a number of things, but to my mind the most important at the present are the 'quality of the product', as the jargon puts it, and the industry's basic costs.

"The first of these refers to the attractiveness of Barbados as a destination. Sooner or later, if our island becomes dirty and unkempt, with overgrown bush, rubble and derelict houses everywhere, it will lose its physical charm as a beautiful tropical island. More than this in my opinion, it will lose its charm earlier if we cannot control the way we behave on the beaches.

"I have decided to join the division of Tourism to that of the Environment and to create a new Ministry of Tourism and the Environment which will also have jurisdiction over the parks, beaches and caves of our island that are looked after by the National Conservation Commission. The new Ministry will devote special attention to the physical character of our island and to the protection of visitors on our beaches and other tourist locations. To this end more beach wardens have already been recruited and special training programmes to familiarise all the wardens with their powers and duties will be instituted.

"The other current problem with tourism in Barbados, and indeed in all other destinations whose currencies are linked with the US dollar, is that of cost. Although the rising value of our dollar has advantages in keeping down the cost of living by reducing the cost of imported goods from non US-dollar sources, it has also meant a gradual erosion of competitiveness in the Barbados tourist industry.

"Tourist arrivals are increasing, but North America remains our only truly expanding market, as the strongly appreciating dollar has made holidays in Barbados much more expensive for the British and European visitor wanting a typically long tropical vacation. We have decided to live with this situation and plan for it, while waiting for holidays costs everywhere

and holiday makers' plans to adjust to the stronger dollar.

"There are signs that this is already happening, and there is also the extremely hopeful development that the industry's entire staff has come to appreciate tourism's cost problems. I refer to the recent wage settlement for hotel workers of 10 per cent spread over two years. The Barbados Workers' Union has often in the past acted with great realism and responsibility, and it has truly done so on this occasion. Unless all of us face economic reality in this manner, Barbados cannot again move forward.

SOCIAL SERVICES

"So far I have dealt with economic development and economic services. I turn next to social services. To make improve health care services more accessible to the entire population the government has added two more to its stock of polyclinics. They are the Edgar Cochrane Polyclinic at Wildey in St. Michael and Ladymeade, the latest polyclinic, located in the environs of the City of Bridgetown. Ladymeade was completed at a cost of \$5.2 million and replaces the old Enmore Clinic. Because of its central position, it offers more specialised services than the other clinics and brings the number of new polyclinics to six. The Six Cross Roads Health Clinic in St. Philip has also been upgraded and plans have been implemented to bring it to full polyclinic status before the end of this year. The final polyclinic in this series will be that to be built at the Glebe in St. George.

"With the completion of the polyclinic programme the Government considers that the physical infrastructure for the National Health Service will have been put in place. Facilities have been provided at the polyclinics for general practitioners in the forthcoming Health Service, which will be free of cost to every Barbadian at the point of delivery. Final negotiations with the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners are now in train and in a very short time the Government will announce the starting date for the service for persons over the age of 65.

"While every effort will be made to come to complete agreement with the doctors on matters of their remuneration and terms of service it is only fair to point out that the National Health Service is a matter of Government policy, and that the people and their well being are more important than any profession. In a matter which has been set out as its manifesto policy in two elections the Government cannot abdicate its own judgement in favour of

the narrow interest of a profession, however sincere or well meaning the profession may think their views to be.

"Re-structuring of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital health care system is also in progress. This includes re-equipping and upgrading its departments, especially its casualty service, to make this department a genuine emergency service. The acquisition of Ultrasound units and computerised auto-analysers, by the kind donation of Mrs. Brigitte Mavromichalis, have led to improvement in the quality and scope of the hospital services.

EDUCATION

"The Government's commitment to upgrade educational facilities in Barbados has been further evidenced in 1984 with the continuation of the Primary School improvement programme supported by a World Bank loan. The new St. Patrick's Primary was officially opened this year and the latest school to be completed under the project is at West Terrace. Two more Primary schools, those at Sharon, St. Thomas and St. Joseph's Primary are expected to be completed during the first quarter of this year.

"Completion of the extensions and re-building at the West St. Joseph Secondary School, recently re-named the Grantley Adams Memorial School, also fell under the aegis of the World Bank Project, and other Secondary Schools such as the Alleyne School and the Alexandra were extended or had their facilities upgraded this year.

"The Government has negotiated a further loan of some \$20 million to help finance a second stage of school construction, rehabilitation and expansion, and this should see all remaining sub-standard primary schools housed in first class premises with modern facilities. With these developments, with curricula improvements, and the introduction of computers into our schools, our children should be guaranteed the rounded personalities and opportunities needed to make first class contributions to an increasingly complex and developing society.

LAW AND ORDER

"One of the most important of the social services which the Government provides is the provision of public order, and in speaking of Tourism I spoke of the likelihood of the charm of our country vanishing if we do not behave better on our beaches. This brings me squarely to the whole question of law, order and indeed discipline in our community. In many ways we are a very tolerant society, but I fear that this tolerance has led to a free-for-all on

one of our most important economic assets, our beaches, which, as we are reminded "belong to we". To my mind, they belong to 'we' so that we can help ourselves, not harass others. I therefore appeal to the public to show its condemnation of the abuse, the solicitations and the harassment to which Barbadians and visitors alike can be subjected by a tiny minority of undisciplined or criminal louts on our beaches; and to support the police and the beach wardens of the National Conservation Commission in their efforts to make our beaches pleasant places to lie on, in the sun and in peace.

"Efforts by the Ministry of Tourism, aided by the National Conservation Commission and the Royal Barbados Police Force have reduced crimes against visitors from peaks of over 750 in 1980 and 1981 to only 352 in 1983 and 416 last year. Actual crime therefore only affects a handful of the 300,000 plus visitors that come to Barbados but harassment on the beach affects most of them. Let us thank the police and the National Conservation Commission for keeping down crime and help them to keep down harassment as well.

"This brings me to the larger question of law and order, perhaps the most topical of the last few weeks. Barbados is a relatively law-abiding society. Our general crime rate reached a peak in 1980 to 1982, passing previous peak of 1975. It declined in 1983 but has apparently increased in 1984. Even at the peak of around 3 200 crimes per 100 000 population it was less than the rates not only of our major Caricom brethren, but less than half the rate of such countries as Finland, Sweden, Denmark and New Zealand which are generally thought to be models of highly developed and well-off social democracies.

"The rate for murder in Barbados is one-third that of the Bahamas and two-thirds that of the U.S.A. The rate for rape and serious sexual offences is half that of Australia and much less than that of West Germany, New Zealand — less even than Britain. Serious theft in Barbados is proportionately much less than in most European countries or New Zealand. So, on figures we have much for which to be thankful and much for which to congratulate our Police Force.

"But statistics do not tell the whole story. It is little help to a population suffering assault from armed bandits, even what is manifestly a small number of armed bandits, to know that things are worse in other countries. It is very little help for me to know that armed burglary is sporadic and unusual in Barbados when twelve years

ago my 87-year-old grandmother was brutally assaulted, robbed and murdered by two young thugs. I remember only the shock, the grief and the outrage on the one hand, and the determination and efficiency with which the police successfully investigated and prosecuted the crime on the other hand. I mention this to suggest that I am not likely to be unsympathetic to the Royal Barbados Police Force in its quest for resources to pursue crime in our island and keep us one of the most law-abiding countries in our region and the Western Hemisphere.

"What appears to have happened in Barbados in the past few months is that a small band of three or four wicked and violent persons have virtually declared war on society, particularly a minority group within our society. They will of course be apprehended by the police, whose efforts are being fully supported by all branches of the Government. The Attorney General and I are in daily contact with the Commissioner of Police and we have been heartened by the many measures which he has reported to us.

"I am particularly pleased to note that former members of the Defence Force who are now policemen have been assigned to CID crime fighting units for protective and sharpshooting duties; and I am also pleased to announce that the 30 new police recruits will be joined by 20 others who will make up the numbers temporarily lost to the Force by the transfer of the Licensing Department to the Ministry of Transport and Works.

"Longer term measures will include an in depth examination of the present structure of the police force. A report on the organisation of the force to which reference was made last month by the Government Information Service did suggest a strength for the force which has already been achieved. But the report also suggested strengthening the disciplinary control which the Commissioner has over the force particularly its junior members, and this is a matter which will receive close attention by the Cabinet. We have always firmly supported public order and security for all classes of our citizens, and we fully intend to continue to be a Government of law and order.

GOVERNMENT CHANGES

"I have outlined a considerable programme of Government activity for the next eighteen months, and as I said at the start of this address I have decided to strengthen the Government's capacity to carry out its policy and its programmes over this period. I

have already referred to the new Ministry of Tourism and the Environment. This Ministry will take over responsibility for Tourism and most of the subjects under the environment Division of the Ministry of Health. It will also take over responsibility for the National Conservation Commission. The new Minister will be Aaron Truss and he will assume his responsibilities on February 1. Until then he will continue to be a Minister of State in my office, responsible among other things, for Emergency Relief.

"I would like to put on record my gratitude and that of the country to Bernard St. John for his long service in charge of Tourism. He took over the Department when our island had 220 000 tourists annually spending around \$150 million. Now we have over 350 000 visitors a year spending \$550 million, and even in this time of depressed European tourism we are still the top Caribbean destination for British and German tourists, a direct result of the diversification programme Bernard St. John instituted on taking office. He will be adding new responsibilities to his Ministries, and I did not think it right to overload even his broad shoulders.

"The Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Senator St. Clair Howell, has accepted another appointment within government and has given up his seat in the Senate. I have appointed Mr. Owen Seymour Arthur, M.P. Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Finance and Planning and he will assume duty from tomorrow, January 7. Mr. Arthur will assist me in preparing the Budget and will also be given special responsibilities to re-organise certain departments within the Ministry of Planning.

"A new unit will be set up in the Ministry to deal with the entire Offshore Services Regime put together over the last few years. This unit will receive collective political supervision from me, from the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Senator Griffith, and from Mr. Arthur. The Deputy Prime Minister, Bernard St. John and the Minister of Agriculture Dr. Johnny Cheltenham will also be associated with the promotion of the Offshore Regime by way of a Cabinet Sub-Committee. Responsibility for Shipping and the Port will be transferred from the Ministry of Transport and Works, whose responsibilities for highway construction and the local transport system have expanded enormously in recent years to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This Ministry will now have two divisions,

one for Trade and Industry and the other for International Transport comprising Civil Aviation and Shipping, and will continue to be headed by Bernard St. John. Leroy Sissett will remain as his Parliamentary Secretary.

"The two vacancies in the Senate, in the places formerly held by Messrs Arthur and Howell will be filled by Mr. Herbert Yearwood and Mr. John Emmanuel Jordan, and I have advised the Governor-General accordingly. I have every confidence that those two able members of the Barbados Labour Party will make powerful contributions to the public life of our country.

CONCLUSION

Fellow Barbadians, with the solid achievements of the past year and Government's projects being planned or on stream, we can look towards the immediate future with some optimism.

"As we contemplate the year ahead, we must do so with the realisation that it will be a period in which we will have to combine our efforts at improving the quality of national life with playing our part in regional and international affairs. Barbados will in July be host to the rest of the regional integration movement as the venue for the Caricom Heads of Government Conference. At the same time, this Government will, during 1985 be re-affirming its commitment to Youth in our society by ensuring that our young citizens play a full part in the United Nations' International Youth Year.

"This Government continues to show a willingness to tackle our various social and economic problems. All we ask of you the public is patience, understanding and cooperation. When these are forthcoming, there is no difficulty that we cannot eventually overcome. Our history has shown our past success at surmounting our problems, and the rest of the world continues to have confidence in us and in our abilities to continue to work for a better and brighter future.

"How much better and brighter that future turns out to be can largely only be determined by us Barbadians ourselves, with the help and blessings of the Almighty.

"I wish you goodnight and a happy and prosperous 1985."

BARBADOS

OIL, NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION REGISTERING ADVANCES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

Barbados is expected to inch its way closer to self-sufficiency in oil, and expand its natural gas services to consumers in this coming calendar year.

Both areas of the energy sector performed outstandingly in 1984 with output in petroleum continuing on its upward march, while more homes have benefited from natural gas services.

Petroleum output was above 304 043 barrels during the first half of the year and it was anticipated that based on those current levels of production output should have reached 60 per cent of domestic requirements by this time.

Production on a daily basis had jumped from 875 barrels to 2 200 barrels a day by the end of October.

Reasons for this increase were an intensification of the drilling programme and additional wells being drilled.

Two of these wells: one at Mose Bottom, St. Andrew, and the other at Canefield, St. Thomas produced oil for the first time, increasing the producing wells to 64, according to the Barbados Central Bank.

These two wells located in the Scotland District had followed exploratory drilling by the Canadian company Bow Valley Resource Services Limited.

Bow Valley had been contracted by Petro Canada International, the Canadian Government-owned corporation which has been giving substantial assistance and expertise to Barbados' energy sector.

Emphasis this year is ex-

pected to focus on additional exploration, expansion at Woodbourne which is the main oilfield in the island, and storage capacity.

The country will also be looking at the seismic research which was carried out in the Tobago basin by a Canadian vessel.

Barbados has already received a long term loan for use in oilfield development while further credit is still to be utilised. The funds are being administered by the Venezuelan Investment Fund.

Because of inadequate storage, Barbados by virtue of the increased output has been forced to export quantities of oil to Curacao.

In the area of natural gas, more of this became available as a result of the intensified oil exploration with the volume reaching some 36.8 per cent up to mid last year above the corresponding period in the previous year.

To expand the service of natural gas to consumers a number of areas had been identified.

These were Bush Hall Yard Gap, Gooding Road, Kew Road, Pasture Road, Some areas in St. Thomas, St. Andrew, St. Philip, Christ Church and St. George.

To effect this, more than 1.53 miles of pipe mains were laid during early last year, with four miles being projected for year end.

To assist residents in installing the system a scheme involving the Barbados National Bank was being looked into.

BARBADOS

UNION, PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP CRITICIZE TAX STRUCTURE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Avonda Scott]

[Text] At least one trade union and the head of a private sector organisation think that this island's economic ills lie in its tax structure and the wide gap between the haves and have nots.

President of the Barbados Employers' Confederation, Mrs. Gertrude Eastmond, has called for a restructuring of the tax system to allow for a wider distribution of income among Barbadians.

General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union, Mr. Frank Walcott, said wage-earners of all classes were called upon to pay heavy costs for the services rendered to them.

The two have also sharply criticised the large salaries politicians have been voting for themselves.

Mrs. Eastmond said the tax structure was burdensome and was definitely a yoke around the neck of the taxpayer.

She was referring to corporation tax as well as personal tax.

She felt that if businesses paid less corporation tax their retained earnings would enable them to expand and invest, and consequently more jobs will be created.

"A reduction on direct taxation would increase the spending power of workers. They will be able to spend more on providing for their families and on the upkeep of their properties. They will also be able to direct money towards ownership of their homes," she said.

Mrs. Eastmond said if this was done more jobs would be created in the construction industry, real estate would be boosted and the spin-off effects would be seen in several other areas of the economy.

She said the tax levies in Barbados had left people with reduced take-home pay.

The BEC President said the gap between those at the top and poor and middle income earners was too wide and asked how could people be called upon to tighten their belts when politicians were drawing large salaries.

"It is time that poor and middle income earners have decent wages," she said.

Mrs. Eastmond also recommended that money be spread more evenly among workers instead of having lay-offs.

She said workers should decide to accept smaller percentages in the interest of their brothers and sisters retaining their jobs.

Mr. Walcott said his union could not look to the future with a feeling of hope and satisfaction if leaders persisted with the attitude of "raking all the fat from the land."

He said Government refused last year to give public servants reasonable wages, while voting "astronomical increases" for themselves.

"As we enter 1985, we note the heavy burden that has been placed on taxpayers and we must point out that the wage earners of Barbados, of all classes, are called upon to pay heavy costs for the services rendered to them," Mr. Walcott said.

He said the extravagance of politicians was beyond comprehension in a country where many taxpayers were called upon to pay out more of their income than they were able to save for their old age and families.

"Workers suffered an extremely difficult time in 1984 and we do not look forward to 1985 with high hope. We must insist on social justice and equity as our standards," he said.

He noted that there was a growing tendency to hinder the progress of workers.

Mr. Walcott hoped that the new year would usher in a new dispensation of social and economic thinking and that more of the progressive minds will begin to understand that our progress must reside in programmes that promote higher skills, higher productivity and greater distribution of our economic resources among the total population.

CSO: 3298/347

BARBADOS

MANUFACTURING OUTSTRIPS TOURISM IN 1983, 1984 EARNINGS

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 11-12 Jan 85 p 3

[Text]

MANUFACTURING earned \$1 million more than tourism in Barbados last year, with \$600 million earned for 1984 and \$583 million for the previous year.

According to the Barbados Manufacturers' Association's president, Mr. Frank DaSilva, for this reason alone, it makes good sense not to allow external sources to penetrate the CARICOM markets. He said that extra-regional markets were "in for a quick fix", and said that certain formalities had to be gone through before these markets were settled.

He spoke of certain problems associated with what were nominally called manufacturing enterprises, which he said were short-term projects. Data processing was one of these, which, said he, although a "valuable project", was still not necessarily a long-term one.

Mr. DaSilva was certain that Government would continue to support the manufacturing industries; but wished that matters of economic importance, such as the viability of increased manufacturing exports would not be subject to political implications.

Former president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Al Knight, said he had predicted in 1981, that crime would increase. But, he did not link this with any down-turn in activity in the private sector.

CSO: 3298/347

BARBADOS

CENTRAL BANK'S QUARTERLY REPORT EXAMINES ECONOMY

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Jan 85 pp 10, 20

[Text]

BARBADOS' economy grew by a modest 2.5 percent during the first three quarters of 1984 compared with a year earlier, but this was insufficient to cushion a rise in unemployment, the Central Bank here said.

"The hesitant recovery of the Barbados economy continued into the third quarter, but failed to provide any gain in the level of employment," the bank said in its latest quarterly report.

The unemployment rate at September last year was 16.7 percent, compared with 14.9 percent for the 1983 nine-month period. Between September 1983 and September 1984 some 900 persons joined the labour force, while about 800 jobs were lost.

The bank said: "The most important sources of growth were an improved sugar crop and a moderate increase in tourist arrivals. Non-sugar agriculture and energy have continued to do well, but output in the manufacturing sector declined further, despite the uptrend in electronic components.

"Both the balance of payments and the fiscal position remained weak. However, the rate of inflation continued to abate."

The foreign reserves declined by \$8.2 million during the nine-month period of last year, compared with a surplus of \$24.2 million in 1983.

The bank said: "Increased contributions to statutory bodies raised government expenditure, but the economy has been growing too slowly to provide sufficient additional revenue.

"Foreign funding for projects was considerably lower than in 1983, and greater demands were placed on the domestic

banking system. Reductions in foreign financing — to the private sector as well — and the slow growth of the economy, have resulted in a weakening of the balance of payments.

"Tourist arrivals increased by an encouraging 10.6 percent during the first nine months. The United States market continued to be a source of rapid growth and the Canadian market has started to recover. There was a slight increase in arrivals from CARICOM but the British market continued to decline.

EXPORTS EXPAND

The report said exports continued to expand despite the loss of sales to Trinidad and Tobago and the trade deficit contracted.

It continued: "However, net capital inflows were considerably reduced owing largely to reduced project inflows to government and heavier amortisation on borrowings by government and the private sector.

"Regional economic stagnation continued into the third quarter. Acute scarcity of foreign reserves persisted in Guyana and Jamaica and their currencies depreciated further. Tourism output increased only modestly, with a deterioration of the long-stay European market moderating the impact of the increase in arrivals from North America.

"In the leading Western industrial nations slow growth and moderate levels of inflation continued. Unemployment rates worsened slightly during the third quarter, particularly in France. Interest rates rose during the first eight months, but moderated in September. In

the United States economic growth moderated during the third quarter.

"The pace of economic growth remained sluggish, with persistently high unemployment, although the inflation rate eased further. Gains in the tourism sector were moderate, with a significant increase in tourist arrivals partially offset by a decline in visitors' average length of stay.

"There was a substantial increase in production of electronic components, but other manufacturing output fell as a result of restrictions on regional trade. However, energy and non-sugar agriculture continued to do well.

"The growth of tourist arrivals in the first nine months of 1983 is accounted for by the strong performance of markets in North America. Arrivals from Canada increased by 24.4 percent with United States arrivals up by 19 percent to 104 000 visitors, 38 percent of total arrivals for the first nine months of 1984.

"The growth in tourism output over the period is estimated at just six percent, a rate which will not bring the industry to the 1980 pre-recession level until 1986.

"Manufacturing output was down by an estimated two percent from levels achieved in the first nine months of 1983. The production of electronic components grew by 45 percent; but other manufacturing activities declined by 8.6 percent largely because of the contraction of the regional market.

"Production of beverages and tobacco fell by 11.5 percent and chemicals were down 8.6 percent. Output of wearing apparel was 7.5 percent lower, but food production registered a small increase of 1.4 percent.

BEST CROP

"Total earnings from this year's exports of sugar and fancy molasses should reach \$62 million, an increase of 12.7 percent. Sugar production from the 1984 crop was 100 506 tonnes, 18 percent higher than in 1983 and the best outturn since 1980.

"Output of non-sugar agriculture increased moderately with onion production 21 percent higher than for the same period in 1983. Plentiful supplies depressed the average prices of tomatoes and cabbage by 20 percent and 21 percent

respectively, while yam prices declined ten percent.

"Chicken production, responding to higher prices, picked up in the second quarter to record an increase of 9.5 percent over the first nine months of 1983. This led to over production and surplus stocks in cold storage. Fish catches slowed to a mere three percent growth, following last year's 70 percent increase.

"Crude oil production reached 400 000 barrels for the first three quarters of 1984, an average of 75 percent. At the current rate, output for 1984 should reach 650 000 barrels or about 50 percent of domestic requirements.

"However, foreign exchange saving on energy imports was only \$1.8 million over the period; stocks of imported crude were twice as high owing to changes in shipping schedules and the Arawak Cement Plant.

MALE EMPLOYMENT UP

On employment, the bank said employment of males rose by 200 but employment of females declined by 1 000. The unemployment rates for March and June 1984 were 15.7 percent and 17.8 percent, respectively, from 14.6 percent and 14.5 percent for the corresponding periods in 1983.

"The change in the retail price index between September 1983 and September 1984 was 3.9 percent. Import prices continued to weaken, reflecting the slow growth of prices in the economies of Barbados' trading partners, while plentiful supplies of local produce reduced food prices.

"The index of food and beverage prices rose by a moderate 3.6 percent between September 1983 and September 1984, while the index for clothing and footwear was one percent lower. The fuel and light index rose by 15 percent, and the housing index increased by 8.2 percent.

The bank said tourism receipts had begun to rise and exports grew strongly owing to continuing expansion of the electronics sector, although trade restrictions by Trinidad and Tobago affected exports of other manufactures.

It added: "Imports slowed down and the trade deficit contracted. Payments for amortisation, dividends and investment income increased and net capital inflows were considerably lower.

"Over the period domestic exports rose by an estimated

\$70 million (27.5 percent). Foreign sales of electronic components were \$80 million (40 percent) higher, while sugar exports grew by \$4 million.

"However, regional trade restrictions resulted in declines in the export of chemicals and apparel of 9.6 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively. The protectionist policies of Trinidad and Tobago reduced exports to this market by 14 percent, while other regional markets stagnated. Domestic exports to the region were three percent lower in contrast to the rise of 7.1 percent over the first nine months of 1983.

"Retained imports grew by an estimated \$44 million (five percent) over the period. Imports of intermediate goods were six percent higher.

"Consumer imports were just two percent higher, reflecting the relative inactivity of the manufacturing sector. Consumer imports were about the same level; motor car imports were about one-third lower, but imports of food and beverages rose 14 percent.

"The current account balance improved as a result of a narrower trade deficit, increased transfer payments and higher tourist receipts. Tourist receipts were about eight percent higher, reflecting the continued rise in arrivals from North America.

"Long-term capital flows were about \$33 million lower than for 1983, largely because of a \$15 million decline in project finance to government and an increase in amortisation payments.

"Foreign finance for government projects in 1984 amounted to \$18.5 million, while amortisation payments rose from \$9.9 million in 1983 to \$17 million.

"Payments for dividends and profits increased; between January and May, payments in this category increased from \$6.2 million to \$10.1 million.

"In addition, net official financing was \$8 million lower as the International Monetary Fund balance of payments support programme came to an end in the second quarter of the year."

BARBADOS

LESS PLANTATION LAND PLANTED IN 1984 THAN IN 1983

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 15 Jan 85 p 9

[Text]

NEARLY 300 fewer acres of plantation land were planted last year, than in 1983.

But, according to the Barbados Marketing Corporation (BMC), it is still Government's intention to increase local agricultural production, as stated in the 1983 to 1988 Agricultural Development Plan.

In the annual report of the Barbados Agricultural Statistical Information Service (BASIS), a division of the BMC, it was stated that 2 337.6 acres of plantation lands were cultivated in 1984, 287 less than the 2 624.6 total for 1983.

Of the total acreage planted last year, 1 334.5 were in ground provisions, yams and sweet potatoes being the favourite. Yam production decreased by seven percent, while potato production increased by 29.5 percent.

After numerous problems in previous years, the onion producers were back on their feet last year and increased production by 80 percent, from 46.2 acres in 1983 to 83.2 acres last year. Peanut production, spearheaded by the Barbados Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), rose by 34.5 percent from 59.7 acres in 1983 to 80.4 acres last year.

Meanwhile, Government is developing strategy to increase exports of yams and sweet potatoes to extra-regional sources, as well as to enter regional markets where there is a demand for root crops.

Government is also to undertake a comprehensive root crop research programme, looking at processing, disease control and production practices.

CSO: 3298/348

BARBADOS

SUGAR INDUSTRY OFFICIALS EXAMINE PROBLEM OF IDLE LAND

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 17 Jan 85 p 3

[Text]

ADMINISTRATORS with the local sugar industry are worried about the quantity of arable land now lying idle, and are undertaking an intensive study to address this problem.

Chief Executive of Barbados Sugar Industries Limited (BSIL), Errie Deane, in an interview with the **DAILY NATION** confirmed that the industry was concerned about the quantity of idle arable land in Barbados, and would be seeking to correct this.

He agreed that the Ministry of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Department at Haggatts, St. Andrew, was involved in an extensive programme to plant large areas of reformed land with sugar cane, but at the same time recognised sugar lands were falling idle.

"We are in fact worried about the quantity of idle land in Barbados. The problem is that the industry is under desperate financial strain and some plantations might be finding it difficult to continue to plant.

"This situation is engaging the

attention of the industry and a study is being carried out with this in mind. We expect that when this is finished we will be able to make recommendations to tackle the problem," he said.

According to Mr. Deane, there are figures available, suggesting what the quantity of land not in use might be, but he declined to make these public, since they might not be "completely reliable".

"The whole thing is being studied. We are looking at the cost and whether or not it will be practical to bring idle arable land back under sugar cane cultivation, or some other form of agricultural use," he added.

Mr. Deane said that the small holders continued to make a meaningful contribution to the local sugar industry, pointing out that of the \$15 million paid out to farmers just before Christmas last year, ten percent went to farmers in this category.

"The small holders produce ten percent of all the sugar cane harvested in Barbados, and their 10 000 tonnes of sugar is a significant proportion of the 14 000 tonnes consumed locally each year," Mr. Deane said.

On the question of the price support which the sugar industry has been receiving from Government since 1982, Mr. Deane said the commercial banking sector would not have been able to continue to assist the industry and it would now be in very serious trouble.

CSO: 3298/348

BARBADOS

BLP HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE

'Settled' Election Candidates

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 11-12 Jan 85 p 28

[Text]

TWENTY-THREE of the ruling Barbados Labour party's (BLP's) candidates for the next general election may be regarded as settled at this time. BLP chairman, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, told a Press conference, yesterday.

There are 27 seats that will be at stake in the election, constitutionally due in 1986.

Of the constituencies not settled with candidates, Dr. Cheltenham mentioned St. John, the St. Philip South and North constituencies, and "one or two in St. Michael".

But he pointed out that in the selection, they would be starting off with the 17 BLP members of the House.

Dr. Cheltenham was asked about reports that Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, Mr. Lionel Craig, who is also MP for St. James North, would switch to the St. Michael South constituency to contest against Deputy Opposition Leader, Mr. Erskine Sandiford, who has been holding that seat since 1971.

Dr. Cheltenham replied: "The matter has not yet reached me either in my capacity as chairman of the party or as a member of the national executive."

Cheltenham Address

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

Chairman of the Barbados Labour Party, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, has said that the party will utilise computer technology in its campaign for the next General Elections.

Addressing the 46th. Annual General Conference of the party yesterday at the Queen's Park Steel Shed he said the party has "to devise the best means of using the computer to assist us in our political operations."

He said the party "in the past depended on sound policy, and a strong platform and house to house campaign to assure ourselves of electoral success. But we now live in an age where no institution whether social, industrial or political can survive, unless it keeps pace with changes in technology and advances in organisational systems.

Our party has to enter the computer age, and organise itself to master operational challenges which flow therefrom."

Identifying two other areas of organisational nature, Dr. Cheltenham said "there is always the danger that a gap can emerge between the Executive of the party and the party leadership itself over the running of the country. Our task is to find the mechanism that will constantly refresh those in government with the ideas which flow from the ranks from which they came."

Another he said has to do with the realm of policy. "I strongly believe that we now have the resources to make abject poverty in Barbados a thing of the past. This will require among other things, the formulation and implementation of small, community-

oriented projects aimed at improving the quality of life of some of the disadvantaged districts in this country.

"In addition, we should now back our legislative initiative in relation to the Plantation Tenancies with a vigorous programme to convert them into modern human settlements rather than places where our agricultural workers find it convenient to live. This general matter presents itself to the party and government as one of the more striking social and organisational challenges of our times."

Dr. Richard Cheltenham said that 1984 was a "year in which the shadows of economic recession were not entirely lifted but started to recede."

"Despite the propaganda of collapse in manufacturing, the volume of our industrial exports surpassed our receipts from tourism. The year began with an improved sugar harvest and closed with a strong showing in the tourism sector," Dr. Cheltenham said.

He added "With the initialling of the avoidance of the Double Taxation Treaty with the United States Government and with the conclusion of an Exchange of Fiscal Information Agreement, we also substantially advanced the work of building an off-shore sector in Barbados particularly in the area of Foreign Sales Corporations and convention business in the tourism field.

"And may I remind you that the off-shore industry in Barbados is the only major new era of economic activity since our party laid the basis for the growth of manufacturing and tourism in the late 1950s."

Much of Dr. Cheltenham's speech was concentrated on paying tribute to Mr. Burton Hinds, former Speaker of the House of Assembly who resigned through illness.

He said: "For 10 of the 15 years when our party was in Opposition, 'Burts' as

he is affectionately known kept the flag of the party aloft. Very soon after entering Parliament, he impressed with his large eye for detail. He loved Parliament and attached great importance to its pivotal role in our system of Government and to its rich traditions. Immediately, he mastered its rules and stamped his strong personality on its proceedings. He strove vigorously to restore its dignity and brought a new level of order to its debates."

"Walter Clare Burton Hinds," Dr. Cheltenham said "was a rugged and effective politician, with a highly developed sense of combat. At the height of his powers, he was almost always able to interpret the mood of the people and reflect their deepest feelings."

He added: "We in the Barbados Labour Party are grateful to the people of St. Peter for the confidence they have consistently reposed in him. We are grateful too for his service and his contribution. We join in prayer that happiness of mind and serenity of spirit may characterise his days of retirement. We pray too that he and his family will always find consolation and inspiration in his record of service to the people and in the continuing good works of our party."

Speaking about the party as a whole Dr. Cheltenham said there would be the development of an Honour Roll covering the entire 27 constituencies to show recognition to "the large number of men and women who now and over the years followed faithfully and devotedly the banner of the party and help to make our party strong." He said that outside of the districts they have tended to be virtually unknowns and as a consequence have tended to be forgotten.

BARBADOS

DLP SEEN IN DISARRAY; SANDIFORD'S VIEWS EXAMINED

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 6 Jan 85 p 4

[Article by Henry Christopher]

[Text]

UP UNTIL recently, Opposition MP Erskine Sandiford's most memorable political statement had been the DLP's threat to "depressurise and remove" those opposed to it over the 1974 Constitutional Amendments.

These infamous words voiced by Mr. Sandiford then, accurately reflected the then ruling Democratic Labour Party's arrogance for its own point of view and its contempt for those who dared to oppose it.

Quite rightly, Mr. Sandiford's ominous threat drew down upon the heads of himself and the party the wrathful indignation of a country grown tired of the DLP's heavy-handed approach to Government after nearly 15 years of unbroken rule.

Now, Mr. Sandiford has again opened a can of worms for the DLP, a political luxury which it can ill afford at this time.

Addressing his constituency's branch meeting a few days ago, Mr. Sandiford enunciated what can only be described as a "recipe for victory" at the next General Elections in Barbados.

Of course, this is not the first time that Mr. Sandiford who is his Party's Deputy Leader of the Opposition, has presented the public with a recipe which, because of the hastily and ad hoc manner with which it was contrived, can most charitably be characterised as a "cook-up."

For it will be recalled that in May last year he put forward three factors that would lead the DLP to victory at the national polls next time.

In May these were that "the electorate must be convinced that the existing policies and their

implementation had failed; that the alternative Government through its experience and proposals was capable of doing better; and had the necessary internal cohesion and unity to face and tackle the problems and crises facing the country."

Most recently, Mr. Sandiford expanded the DLP's list of requirements to five, namely: Settlement of the leadership problem; an attractive slate of candidates; an adequate financial base; a sound media and public relations programme; and a programme that addresses the problems inside the country.

There are several interesting features about Mr. Sandiford's list. Foremost among these must be the order of priority he employed. It is obvious that the list has been compiled using the system of "descending order of magnitude". The principle of this system are that those factors considered most important are ranked first and those deemed to be of lesser importance are placed lower down the scale.

As Deputy Opposition DLP Leader it must be presumed that Mr. Sandiford's words indicated the party's thinking. That being so therefore, it must say a lot about the values and philosophy of a party that can list party leadership as the top priority and a programme to deal with the country's problems at the bottom. In other words, the DLP has to be seen as putting its own interests way above and beyond that of the country and its people.

And this is in stark contrast to the ruling Barbados Labour Party (B.L.P.) whose firmest tenet is to

always "Put Barbados First."

Furthermore, Mr. Sandiford as Deputy Leader, in Parliament has views that are at serious variance with his Leader, Mr. Errol Barrow, who downgrades the importance of leadership to a political party. Mr. Barrow had said in August that "the first thing was to win a general election by getting the majority of seats." This was of course after Mr. Barrow as political leader of the DLP was elected its President in a bruising contest with Mr. Branford Taitt, the repercussions of which are still adversely affecting the DLP to this very day.

When Mr. Barrow poohpooed the importance of leadership in the wake of his defeat of Mr. Taitt, he had said that he hoped it would put an end to "all the talk about leadership problems" in the DLP.

He had stressed then that "I am now both the political leader and the President of the party."

So Mr. Sandiford's pronouncement about the over-riding importance of a "settlement of the leadership problem" in the DLP has several significant implications for the party, all of which are negative and can only further undermine the already quickly crumbling few remaining semblances of DLP unification.

Nobody can fail to grasp that, based on Mr. Sandiford's priorities, not only is leadership of supreme significance, but also that Mr. Barrow's election to the presidency did not put to rest that vexed question of leadership problems. Rather, some would say that Mr. Barrow's triumphant confrontation with Mr. Taitt merely made the problem very much more acute.

Consequently, as Mr. Sandiford has publicly admitted a "leadership problem" does exist within the party. That could only mean then that Mr. Barrow is not really the unquestioned and unchallengeable leader of the DLP after all. Although he lost, Mr. Taitt's decision to take on Mr. Barrow must be viewed for all that it is truly worth — that is, the unprecedented declaration that Mr. Barrow was no longer the undoubted boss of the DLP body.

If the party could not maintain

unity enough to run a proper by-election campaign in St. Peter in November, the question that the country must consider is whether the DLP can be seriously expected to work together to grapple with the knotty problems of an increasingly complex world economic and political environment.

On the other hand, supporters of the Taitt section of the DLP point to the fact that at the end of that same November by-election it was Mr. Taitt who had to face the press and the public after the DLP had again lost the attempt to capture the seat. Mr. Barrow who outranked Mr. Taitt in the management of the campaign, was absent from the scene of defeat. This was very much unlike the case with the BLP's political leader and Prime Minister Tom Adams. The Prime Minister was on hand to face the music both in July and in November.

Meanwhile, that the DLP is in near total disarray can be judged from the frequency with which it is losing members and supporters.

Disillusionment with the DLP has never been higher or worse. Factions are arising and collapsing with great regularity as the leadership problem continues to wrack its internal order.

Thus, the DLP now sports several spokesmen on the same subject area as though there is a "free-for-all" attempt by all and sundry to try to lead the party.

In this atmosphere of turmoil it is therefore difficult to envisage how the DLP can expect to put together the other four props as outlined in the political gospel according to Mr. Sandiford.

But the public cannot be expected to be sympathetic to the DLP. It has for eight years refused to rid itself of Mr. Barrow's leadership that prior to November in St. Peter, had led it to two successive general elections defeats.

When it is remembered how Mr. Barrow for years refused to command party leadership in and out of Parliament after the change of Government, then one can only conclude that with the chickens now coming home to roost, the DLP is enjoying its just rewards.

BARBADOS

DLP DEPUTY LEADER SANDIFORD INTERVIEWED ON PARTY ISSUES

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 6, 13 Jan 85

[6 Jan 85 p 31]

[Text]

MR. ERSKINE SANDIFORD, is the St. Michael South representative in the House of Assembly. He has been the Deputy Leader of the Opposition ever since the Democratic Labour Party occupied the Opposition benches following its defeat by the Barbados Labour Party in 1976. -

At that time Mr. Errol Barrow, the defeated Prime Minister, turned down the role of Leader

of the Opposition — a role which was subsequently filled by Mr. F. G. "Sleepy" Smith. Later Mr. Smith resigned and Mr. Barrow filled the breach. But Mr. Sandiford remained as the undisputed Deputy Leader.

In this clear-the-air interview with Sunday Sun Editor Tony Vanterpool, Mr. Sandiford explains the role of Party Leadership and other matters concerning the DLP.

Q: Last Sunday as you addressed the end-of-the-year meeting of your constituency, St. Michael South, you listed five requirements if the Democratic Labour Party is to win the next general election, due in 1986.

The first of these was the settlement of the leadership problem and the others were: an attractive slate of candidates; an adequate financial base; a sound media and public relations programme, and a programme that addressed the problems inside the country.

Let us deal firstly with your first point: settlement of the leadership problem. I have heard you on more than one occasion talk about "settlement of the leadership problem"; there are many people who are of the opinion that there is a leadership problem

within the Democratic Labour Party. Certain members from within the DLP have publicly pronounced from time to time that there is no leadership problem.

What is the true picture as far as the leadership of the Democratic Labour Party is concerned?

A: Let me start by saying that leadership refers to the principal person or persons who manage and coordinate the activities of a political party. That is leadership in relation to political parties. It refers to the person exercising commanding authority, or influence.

The problem of leadership relates to the doubts which have been raised concerning the age and the interests of the leader of the party, Errol Barrow in terms of leading the party into the next general election and beyond, and about the succession in the event that he is unable to continue for whatever reason.

As long as the doubts exist and queries are raised, this becomes a political fact which the party cannot ignore if it wishes to improve its chances of

winning the next election since uncertainty creates lack of confidence, and no party which hopes to win an election can hope to do so by going into that election with its leadership unsettled.

You are quite right that there are problems. The problems are raised within the party, in the constituencies and outside of the party; people raise it for various reasons.

Q: You mentioned that doubts had been raised concerning the age and the interests of the leader of the party, what are your views, especially on the matter of age?

A: The question in relation to age has always been a non-question because the age of the leader of the party is not higher than that of other leaders in other countries, and also in Barbados where a lot of hope and effort were extended to the outcome of the election in Grenada where people are joyous that someone who is older than the Leader of the Opposition here, is now Prime Minister of Grenada. So age is not really the issue or should not be to thinking people.

Q: What then would you say are the leadership problems to which you referred? What is the issue?

A: It is not one only of the leader but also one of the succession in the given circumstances; not only one of Number One but one of Number Two. The party cannot hope to unseat the Government with that top leadership uncertain or open to doubt and question. According to our constitution if the Opposition wins an election the Governor General calls upon the person who is able to command a majority in Parliament within the context of party politics of today. That means the designated Leader of the Opposition, who had led the party, prior to and into the election. It does not necessarily refer to the party chairman or party president or even to a coordinator or manager of political campaigns. It relates to that top leadership — the Number One or the Number Two in the Party; and I stress Number Two because of the circumstances in which the doubts have been raised relating to the age and interests of Number One. So the problem cannot be settled simply by saying that Number One is the Leader. It has to go beyond that so that there can be a clear understanding that, if for any reason Number One is unable to continue, it is a clear succession.

It is like the Presidency of the United States. If the President is

unable for any reason to continue office, the Vice-President is just a heart-beat away and that is a settled leadership thing; Number One and Number Two.

Q: Are you saying then that, although there is no uncertainty about Number One in your party, there are doubts surrounding Number Two?

A: What I am saying is, that in my view there may be need for a clear statement on this matter to reassure our supporters as well as the uncommitted, and to stop the other party from continually raising the question in the way that it has been raised.

Our position inside of the Democratic Labour Party is no different from that inside of the Barbados Labour Party in this regard. They have Mr. Tom Adams as the Leader and "Bree" St. John as the Deputy Leader. Within the Democratic Labour Party we have Errol Barrow as the Leader and myself as the Deputy Leader.

Q: Why then do we have this situation where you have publicly stated that there is a problem to be settled and some of your members are claiming that there is no leadership problem? Other members, including young David Thompson, have claimed the leadership is clear. What is your response to these claims?

A: Last May, it was precisely in this area that I sought to make the position concerning leadership in the Democratic Labour Party clear, and I said then at the St. James Secondary School that Barrow was the Leader and Sandiford was the Deputy Leader.

Q: What has happened since then?

A: First of all, Barrow was challenged at the annual conference in August when he sought to become president of the party. So that is a leadership challenge. Barrow emerged as the president of the party. Now I cannot say if anyone is challenging me for the Number Two position. All I can say is that if such challenges occur, both to the Number One and to the Number Two position in our top leadership, these can only sow doubts and uncertainties at a time when the party needs to present a united front. And that is why I made a call in May last year for members to curb their ambitions; to wait their turn and to exhibit that sense of loyalty which the situation required.

That makes political sanity... and still makes political sanity and commonsense.

Q: How is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition appointed? Does this question ever come up at annual conferences? How

come you have been the unchallenged Deputy Leader of the Opposition since 1976? Was the question of Number Two not settled at the last annual conference?

A: No. That isn't dealt with inside of the party conference. At the moment the Deputy Leader is a consensus position inside of the party. The Leader designates the Deputy Leader and there is consensus within the Parliamentary group on that matter. In my case this was done long ago ... soon after the general election of 1976 when "Sleepy" Smith became Leader of the Opposition and later when Barrow became Leader. That has been the position ever since.

Q: Is there any stipulation within the constitution of the party which calls for a reaffirmation from time to time of the post of Deputy Leader of the Opposition?

A: No! No! There is nothing. On that particular score I don't think there is anything in either of the parties on that matter. "Bree" St. John has been Deputy ever since Mr. Adams has been the Leader.

Q: Has your position of Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament ever been challenged from the floor at any of the annual conferences, executive meetings or other party powwows?

A: No. Not to the best of my knowledge ... certainly not when I was there. And if there had been any challenging I would have had to be aware of it.

Q: Would you therefore say that the majority are behind you for the post of Deputy Leader of the Opposition?

A: I would say that within the Parliamentary group there has been no challenge to the designation of myself as the Deputy Leader.

Q: Do you find that sometimes there is some confusion in the titles — Deputy Leader of the Opposition; Deputy Leader of the Party, Presidents, Vice-Presidents and on and on?

A: Sometimes there is confusion. The Party has a chairman who is chairman of the party organisation. That is the machinery of the party; that has to do or relate to the management of the party at headquarters; relations with the constituency branches; finances of the party; the party property and those kinds of nuts and bolts. That person is Errol Barrow. He is also called president. The title was a change which was in-

troduced sometime ago. There are three vice-presidents to him ... that has to do with the party machinery.

The Parliamentary machinery is different. That is where you have the Leader of the Opposition and then you have the Deputy Leader of the Opposition ... that has to do with the formulation and the implementation of the party's policies and programmes.

Q: In a situation where the chairman of the party and the Leader of the Opposition are different people, if the party wins, who would then be Prime Minister?

A: The Prime Minister is chosen by the Governor General in terms of a person who is best able to command a majority of Members of Parliament and in the context of our party politics, that would clearly be the person who was the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament or the person who clearly has been the leader of the party; not the party president. Because, let us say for example, in Britain the party president ... that is a high-flower title ... party chairman; I prefer to look at it as party chairman ... is sometimes not even an active politician in that sense. He may be a retired politician. And this is the confusion that is made between the party chairman and the political leader of the party.

Q: Are you therefore saying that the three vice-presidents have no claim to the post of Deputy Prime Minister? Is it an established fact that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, in case of a victory, would automatically become the Deputy Prime Minister?

A: I am not saying that. In a democratic party anybody can have a claim. But it does not mean that the office of, let us say, Prime Minister, or Deputy Prime Minister, or Minister or whatever, will go to the people who hold office in the party.

Q: Getting back to this question of the settlement of the leadership problem; how best do you think this could be settled between now and the 1986 general election?

A: What I said was that any party which hopes to win must go into the election with its leadership settled. All I am saying by this is that ... what that means is that ... some kind of clarifying statement must be made both in terms of reassuring our own members as well as those who are uncommitted and supporters of the party and others.

Q: Do you think this statement

should come from the Leader of the party?

A: Put it this way. The Deputy Leader has already spoken on the matter and that is the position.

(In a New Year's Message to Barbadians at home and abroad, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Errol Barrow stated, among other things: "We have a leader and a tried and trusted deputy leader in Erskine Sandiford.") This statement came after Mr. Sandiford's observations.

Q: Mr. Sandiford, let us face facts. Ever since the 1981 general election, the leadership of the Democratic Labour Party has been in question. It has been a sore point. Party members, including yourself, have spoken of the matter with tongue-in-cheek. Do you think that your party is handicapped by allowing this matter to hang in the air for so long?

A: Oh yes! The people in the country and particularly the voters, perceive that there is a problem and in this respect it would be a problem relating to leadership. To that extent they would have doubts as to whether they should vote for that particular party or not. If it is perceived by them as a problem then something should be done about it. Because if you go into an election with a problem; or what is considered a major problem swinging or dangling, then to that extent it may detract from the number of votes that you may obtain and hence prejudice your chances of gaining the number of votes to give you the government.

Q: Why do you think the Leader of the Opposition/President of the party has been so reluctant in clearing the air on the leadership question?

A: I think that the Leader himself probably believes that the matter is so simple and straightforward ... I wouldn't like to speak for him ... but this is my own speculation ... that the premises should all be understood. His position as I have heard him express it, is that what we need is a programme and that you present that programme and you have candidates who put themselves before the electorate, and the electorate will decide which competing programme and slate of candidates will be elected; and when that is done the Governor General will call on the person who can command a majority.

In other words his position, as I understood it, is that this (leadership issue) is something which will sort itself out through

the natural progress of time.

Q: The public is saying there is a leadership problem. You are saying that the leadership problem needs to be settled. The Leader is feeling that it is something which will sort itself out through natural progress of time; am I to understand that the Leader might be getting the wrong information fed back to him? Or is he completely ignoring what he is hearing?

A: No, no. He is very alert and he is hearing it ... but it is not everything that he hears which he may want to respond to as may be expected. I don't think he is necessarily getting wrong in-

formation. He has his ears to the ground as much as anybody else.

Q: Obviously he isn't hearing you, because if you said in May that there is need for this situation to be clarified; and you repeat it on this occasion ... and nothing has been done, I am still waiting for you to convince me that your Leader is hearing the right thing. How do you respond to that?

A: I am not saying that ... what I would say is, that he may be giving more weight to other components of the situation than, let us say, I may give to that particular matter. That may be just a question of emphasis.

[13 Jan 85 p 31]

[Text]

Q: In our previous interview you dealt with the settlement of the leadership problem the other four requirements you listed were: an attractive slate of candidates; an adequate financial base; a sound media and public relations programme and a programme that addressed the problems inside the country. Today I propose to question you on these four.

To deal first with an attractive slate of candidates, what do you actually mean by an attractive slate of candidates?

A: Elections are won in individual constituencies by candidates. These candidates must be able to get a majority of the votes in the constituency; which means that they must get the majority of the voters to vote for them.

In order to do this the candidate must be attractive to a majority of the voters; and by this I mean, a candidate must appeal to the voters either on the grounds of the purity which the candidate supports or represents or on the grounds of the personal ability, prestige and so on of the candidate; or the ability of the candidate to contribute to the efforts of dealing with the problems of the country.

I include either one or all of these under the category of an attractive candidate. It has nothing to do, necessarily, with the personal looks of the candidate in that sense, but to do with the ability of the candidate to convince a majority of the voters he (or she) is worthy of the majority of the votes.

Q: You stated previously that the Democratic Labour Party, according to your knowledge, had already selected a large percentage of its prospective candidates for the 1986 general

election; would you say that those prospective candidates fit into your requirements?

A: We have selected most of our prospective candidates at this stage ... about 75 percent. We have quite an attractive slate and I believe that we will convince a majority of constituencies to vote for them.

Q: Would you like to give a rundown of those candidates ... names, ages, professions, political abilities and so on?

A: No. I don't think I would like to go into that at this stage. But in due course ... in due course I think all of this will come out.

Q: Have these prospective candidates been doing their homework in their prospective constituencies?

A: Oh yes ... Oh yes ... Some of them ... those who have been identified have already been at work, making themselves well known in the respective constituencies and dealing with and expressing opinions and views on the issues of the day; pointing out some of the ailments that the society is facing and any errors which the Government might be making; as well as how the Opposition intends to deal with those matters ... so they have been at work.

Q: Therefore, as far as those prospective candidates are concerned, there is no secret about their intentions to contest the 1986 general election ...

A: I don't think so ... not about those who have been identified so far ... there is no secret about it.

Q: So who have been identified ... could you name a few of those who have been identified?

A: Pardon me; Pardon me?

Q. Could you name a few of those who have been identified or would you prefer not to?

A. No, I would leave that for the Leader of the Party to do. I don't think I would wish at this stage to go into that.

Q. Do you think youth of candidates will influence the voter? In other words, do you think that the young candidates, for whatever reason there might be, will stand a better chance than the old contenders?

A. I think it is a combination because we have in our society an electorate which is made up of young people... adolescent; it is made up of adults... both young adults and of middle age; and it is made up of senior citizens. Any slate of candidates should include, if it is broadly representative; if it is helpful; persons in those age categories or can understand the feelings of people of different age groups. I think our slate of prospective candidates will reflect that broad range.

Q. You don't think then that the victory of Owen Arthur was an indication that the electorate, generally is out to back "something new and young"?

A. I think the victory of Owen Arthur was an indication that the Barbados Labour Party was able to win the seat the second time around... win a seat that is a stronghold. That to me is all the victory would indicate. It doesn't tell me anything about youth or age as such. I don't think that was the dominant thing there.

Q. I think we have exhausted the issue of the candidates, now your third point was to do with an adequate financial base. What were you implying?

A. I am implying and I am stating openly that election, like any other kind of activity, has a financial cost attached to it and the running of elections is a costly business. That is all I meant... and in order to be able to win an election, a party must have at least a minimum financial base... in order to meet the kinds of expenses which have to be met in running an election.

For example, there is equipment to be bought, loudspeakers and so on; there are manifestos to be printed; there are other kinds of expenses; purchasing of things like envelopes and, and if you are making more than one appeal to the electorate through the post, there would be postage stamps and a whole host of expenses

which have to be met during an election. I mean this goes for both parties... this is not something for one party or another. I am saying that one needs an adequate financial base in order to meet the legitimate expenses of an election.

Q. In the United States of America it is public knowledge that business houses, including the large multi-national corporations, provide financial support to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars for either the Republicans or the Democrats. There is no hiding this fact. Here in Barbados you have a situation where similar support is given to the parties but there seems to be this hush-hush.

You would think that some crime is being committed. What is responsible for this difference of attitudes and approaches as far as the two countries are concerned?

A. In the United States by law, one can make political contributions to political funds, either in terms of a check off through the Income Tax, or by donations up to certain specified amounts and these have to be declared. If they are exceeded one would be in breach of the law. We do read that some persons and some corporations find themselves in difficulty because of payments which may not be in accordance with the law.

Our system here is not sufficiently regulated to that extent and you get that hush-hush because we live in a much smaller society where politics has been considered and is still considered to be somewhat secret in certain aspects of it and people don't like to know that what they are doing may be known by someone else. So you get that kind of secrecy.

Q. Do you think your party is at a disadvantage since the business community tends to back the party in power more so than the opposition?

A. I would say definitely that we are at a disadvantage in this particular regard. We are at a disadvantage but certain categories of a population may tend to support parties which they believe have their particular interests at heart. We are a broadbase party and our appeal is to all sectors of the population or to the electorate. Certainly a party in opposition is at a disadvantage.

I would say however, that this whole question of financing of

political parties is a matter that we will have to discuss... because if you get too many donations coming from narrow interests groups then there may be certain dangers involved in this.

It is my own personal view that at some stage, just as contributions are made out of public funds for organisations that play an important institutions in a country, and, in my opinion on the basis of some formula, those parties should be supported out of public funds. Political parties get support from public funds in Britain.

Q. Are you suggesting that this financial support should be legalised as in the case of the United States? Do you think that would remove the under-the-counter hush-hush approach?

A. What I am saying is that in the future this whole question of the financing of political parties, both on the basis of grants from individual groups and corporate donations, as well as out of public funds, will have to be regulated. This is to avoid any suggestion at all that in the absence of such regulations, that the public funds may be used in order to buy elections.

Q. Your fourth point was about a sound media and public relations programme; what would you say your party has been doing in this direction? If the image of your party is being projected as an organisation in which there is a leadership struggle; if there is that impression of in-fighting, it would appear that solidarity for which your party has been known from its inception, is disintegrating. Would you agree that there is need to rebuild the old image?

A. I don't know about that area... let me say first of all what I mean by a sound media and public relations programme. I start from the basis that communication is at the heart of politics. A political party must be able to get its message across to the public in an as attractive a package as possible and today the most effective means of communication is through the Press and the electronic media. I will agree that we need to refurbish and to strengthen our approaches in this particular area so that we can respond appropriately and swiftly to the events of the day.

Our party believes that the media is the ally of the party rather than the enemy and it is so because we are both interested

in getting a message across ... the Press and electronic media in the sense that they function as the Fourth Estate — to convey information and message, is at least one part of their function; and the party from the aspect that it has some important point of view to address in terms of the major issues that confront this country.

So to that extent we are allies and we must work together ... and I agree that this is an area which can be strengthened. It does not mean that a sound media policy can make black appear to be white ... it is not a question of papering over the cracks but one of conveying the accurate information about the state of affairs and the aims, objectives and programmes of the party.

Q. Don't you think that both parties have been guilty from time to time of using the media, especially the Press, as a "whipping horse"?

A. I would say certainly that the media, and I include in this both the Press ... the traditional press ... and the radio, television and so on ... that the journalists in the media have certainly been whipped more during this period since 1976 than ever before. There has been a lot of whipping of individual journalists and the media in recent times.

Q. Your final requirement concerns a programme that addresses the problems inside the country: from time to time I have heard it said and I have read where the Democratic Labour Party is quick to criticise but not as quick to provide an alternative ... a solution ... to particular issue. Have you heard this on occasion? What do you think is responsible for this — what I would term — political defect of character?

A. I have heard that on occasions and generally it comes from those who are crying out for help. Let us understand our political system basically. It is one of Government of Opposition. The Government is responsible

for putting forward the policies and programmes for the good Government of the country.

The main function of the Opposition is to analyse the programmes and policies put forward by the Government and where those policies and programmes are considered to be inimical to the best interests of the country and its citizens, to point out where the policies are inimical and to urge the Government to go and think again and to come up with alternative policies.

The Government has a whole battery of advisers in the civil service and all of the financial resources in order to carry out that kind of thinking and if the Government cannot do it, then it is the responsibility of the Government to step aside or to go back to the country for a fresh mandate or to be removed from office. That is the basis of the Westminster model of Government.

Where appropriate, the Opposition can come up and does come up with some alternative programmes ... but that is the nature of the exercise.

Q. One final question ... taking into consideration the five requirements you have outlined, do you think that if the Democratic Labour Party really works on those points, especially the one of Leadership ... I repeat, do you think that it has sufficient time between now and the 1986 election, to put its house in order and to win the election?

A. I have no doubts ... I have no doubts about that ... we are going to win the next election. That is my feeling and my prediction. The people of this country have indicated that it's really time for a change because the policies of the Government are not working ... and so many different sectors of the country have been affected adversely by the policies of the Government, including the press, that ... you know, I think they are ready to vote the Government out of power. I certainly am confident that this is what will happen.

BARBADOS

NEW ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION TO BE NAMED

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 11-12 Jan 85 p 28

[Text]

THE long-promised Electoral and Boundaries Commission is to be announced within weeks, chairman of the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP), Dr. Richard Cheltenham, said yesterday.

Speaking to the Press at BLP headquarters, Grantley Adams House, Roebuck Street, Bridgetown, Dr. Cheltenham said the commission would have five members.

Three members would be chosen by the BLP and two by the Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP), he said.

The chairman, who is also Minister of Agriculture, added that all the persons proposed for the commission had already been approached, and an announcement was expected to be made shortly.

The establishment of the commission was suggested and proposed in the manifesto of the BLP in the 1976 general election, in which that party defeated the DLP.

In the manifesto, the BLP sought "to establish a permanent Electoral and Boundaries Commission with full constitutional protection to preserve free elections and put an end to the sorry system under which the

machinery of elections in the constituencies is largely in the hands of persons known to be supporters of the Government".

The setting-up of the commission was raised in the House of Assembly on several occasions. But the act was passed in 1981 and has not yet been proclaimed.

A STRAIGHT YEAR

However, Prime Minister Tom Adams, at a BLP excursion at River Bay, St. Lucy, in September, last year, announced that the act would have been in force by last December.

He said, then, that December had been selected, because Government wanted the commission to have a straight year to prepare a new voters' list; and added that in that year's Estimates, provisions had been made for \$36 000 to be put aside "as a start".

The two most vocal critics from the Opposition, inside and outside the House of Assembly regarding the commission, were MP for St. Michael West, Mr. Branford Taitt, and MP for St. Michael South Central, Dr. Richie Haynes.

Mr. Taitt has always been stressing the need for the commission, and had been relentless over the years to have it appointed.

Dr. Haynes was of the opinion the appointment of the commission would be to the advantage of the ruling party, since the BLP would appoint three members and the DLP, two.

He contended that if the BLP went out of power in 1986, they would still have a majority on the commission for another two years, because the appointment was for seven.

BARBADOS

CRIME, SECURITY CONCERNS DRAW INCREASING ATTENTION

Durant Plea to Public

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 6 Jan 85 p 40

[Text] COMMISSIONER of Police, Orville Durant, has called on all Barbadians, especially those living in secluded areas of the island, to pay very special attention to their security, until police can crack the recent string of armed robberies.

Mr. Durant gave the advice during an interview on Friday evening with the SUN, after the two most recent armed robberies left one plantation manager dead, and a police constable seriously injured, both the result of shotgun blasts.

Said Mr. Durant, "We would like people to pay very special attention to their security, until we can put a halt to this situation. We do not want people to panic; but at the same time, they cannot afford to relax.

"We will do all within our power to use our available resources to provide as many patrols as possible, especially in the areas that seem attractive to criminals."

He pointed out that the police now have a properly organised investigating team on the hunt for the armed robbers, and added that the brutal shooting of Police Constable Seibert Johnson had awakened all Barbadians to the reality of the situation.

"In addition to the measures which I introduced just before Christmas, many policemen have been voluntarily giving up their spare time to join the hunt for these criminals," he said.

At the same time, the police commissioner begged the public to assist the force by telephoning any information they might have, no matter how insignificant they might think it is.

He made it clear that people should pay special attention to things that might appear unusual or suspicious. He identified one of these as dogs barking suddenly.

"It looks as though people are seeing and ignoring, and it is in everyone's interest that these things be reported to the police," the commissioner said.

This point was shared by the public relations officer of the force, Assistant Superintendent Allan Longe who said that it was almost impossible for the group of criminals to move around without being noticed by someone.

Opposition Support for Police

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 6 Jan 85 p 15

[Text]

PARLIAMENTARY representative for St. Michael-South-Central, Dr. Richie Haynes, on Friday told a group of constituents that he shared their worries and concerns over crime in this country, and called on the Government to give the Commissioner of Police the manpower and other resources he has requested.

"Like all other citizens", said Dr. Haynes, "you want action now; you have paid your taxes to provide protection for yourselves, your families, your fellow-citizens, your guests and your property. The Government is paid by you to allocate the resources which you made available to it, and should it continue along the path of negligence in this matter which is crucial to your welfare and security, then the Government must be held fully responsible."

"The leader of the Opposition," said Dr. Haynes, "has already indicated a method by which the manpower needs of the police force can be increased at once, and I am sure that his suggestion was welcomed by all Barbadians."

"The proposal to institute an enquiry into the management of the police force at this stage, does not offer the protection you are asking for, and can only damage the morale of the force while diverting the time and energy of senior officers from crime prevention and detection, to bureaucratic and political foolishness," said Dr. Haynes.

He pointed out that it was

preposterous to argue that the removal of immigration matters and certain aspects of coastal surveillance from the police have made more officers available for police duties.

"On the contrary," said Dr. Haynes, "these two steps have inadvertently led to more crime and more work for the police, particularly in the area of the traffic in drugs of addiction."

"Both these functions should be returned to the police without delay," said Dr. Haynes. He added that there would be more effective monitoring of the airport and harbours, thus improving the programmes of crime prevention."

"As it now stands," said Dr. Haynes, "neither the Immigration Department nor the Coast Guard can perform this crime detecting and crime prevention functions with the same level of efficiency as the police. The reasons ought to be obvious to any thinking person."

Dr. Haynes told his constituents they must continue their opposition to organised gambling in Barbados, since there was good and sufficient evidence that the money derived from this source provided the illicit drug wholesalers with the financial resources to initiate and escalate this iniquitous trade.

Dr. Haynes warned that if these developments in criminal activity are not stamped out, it will be impossible to reverse these trends in the future.

Recruitment, Other Measures

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Jan 85 p 1

[Excerpts] Some 50 recruits are to enter the Regional Police Training Centre to beef up the manpower needs of the Royal Barbados Police Force.

Announcing this yesterday was the Attorney-General Mr. Louis Tull who spoke on the programme "Point at Issue" heard on the Voice of Barbados.

It was one of a number of measures outlined by the Minister in view of the recent upsurge in the rate of violent crime in Barbados especially in St. George.

Other measures revealed by the Minister include an amendment to the National Conservation Commission (formerly the Parks and Beaches Commission) Act, and discussions between Government and the Police to formulate policies to fight crime.

The 50 recruits will begin training this month and in addition to 30 temporary officers who are currently in training should improve the need of the Force.

Mr. Tull acknowledged that while numbers were important other means of maximising and optimising existing resources in the Police Department ought to be tackled.

He noted that the Government had increased considerably the number of Police Officers over the past five to six years and more recently had acceded to the request of the Police for more men in phases.

In relation to the amendment to the Act, Mr. Tull said this would deal in a forceful way with criminal activities on the beaches, including accosting of persons.

It is envisaged that under the amendment provision will be made to extend and widen the powers of arrest by security personnel, and increase penalties for offences committed on beaches and in parks.

He recalled that Government had also introduced the system of walkie-talkies to improve communication, and a system of mobile communication to speed up the arrival of officers at the scene of a crime.

Rejection of Joint Patrols

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

Attorney-General Mr. Louis Tull has ruled out joint patrols by the Royal Barbados Police Force and the Barbados Defence Force to help solve the recent upsurge in criminal activities.

Mr Tull told the Voice of Barbados yesterday it was a view he did not share.

He said that if the answer to the needs of the police was more men then more officers will have to

be put on patrol.

"I certainly do not accept the thesis that the joint operation of patrolling between the Army and the Police would be a desirable thing", Mr. Tull pointed out.

He said the role of the Police was to deal with civil order and that of the Army was to deal with situations outside the normal maintenance of law and order.

PPM Leader's Views

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 8 Jan 85 p 2

[Text]

Barbados' unemployment situation needs to be dealt with immediately if the increase in crime is to be curbed.

This has been stated by the People's Pressure Movement (PPM), whose leader Mr. Eric Sealy has been commenting on the recent spate of violent crimes in the island.

Mr. Sealy said that the police force has capable and competent personnel who can deal with the crime situation, but he felt that they were being played down in preference to the Barbados Defence Force. The PPM leader said that while the size of the BDF was "a state secret", it was generally believed that it had more than 1 000 men and got all the equipment it needed.

The PPM Leader said that he was in full support of the Commissioner of Police, whom he described as a competent and diligent professional officer with the well-being of Barbados and every Barbadian at heart, and who should be given the men and tools to fight crime.

Mr. Sealy said, however, that even if the police had the required number of men and the tools and unemployment remained high, then there would still be problems.

"The unemployment situation needs to be dealt with immediately and in a meaningful way. Proper work and training must be given to the youth of

this island," he said.

The PPM leader added that Government's immigration policies in recent years must carry the blame for some problems we now face, especially in crime. Mr. Sealy claimed that a number of people resident here in recent times have committed crimes and have had to be taken before the law courts.

He also came out in praise of three youths from the Martindales Road, St. Michael, area who helped in the apprehension of a man who was seen going into the home of a resident from that area.

He said he hoped youth in other areas, and indeed the residents of the many districts around the island, play their part in keeping crime to a minimum, by always being on the alert.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sealy announced that the PPM will shortly start a series of nationwide political mass meetings in order to highlight the social, political, economic and cultural problems facing the island.

The increase in Government Ministries; increased salaries for parliamentarians; the absence of clear direction in the leadership of the DLP and the controversy surrounding the PPM's non-participation in the recent St. Peter by-election will also be dealt with during these forthcoming meetings.

Special Police Squad

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 9 Jan 85 p 20

[Text] A SERIOUS Crime Police Squad is seeking further assistance from the public in an effort to curb the recent upsurge in crime.

Headed by Senior Superintendent, Sylvester

Williams, the squad is based at District "A" Police Station, and any information the public has about any of the recent robberies can be passed on there.

Assistant Superintendent, Aurie Greenidge, has been

appointed deputy to Mr. Williams in an effort to strengthen the squad.

The hotline number 429-8787 is manned on a 24-hour basis, and members of the public need not give their names.

Vigilante Denial

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 9 Jan 85 p 20

[Text]

PLANTATION managers in St. George have denied reports that they are forming a vigilante force to comb cartroads at night but said they were tightening security around their homes.

This comes in the wake of the recent spate of robberies in Barbados against plantations and businessmen. In St. George alone, within the past two months one plantation manager has been killed and two businessmen robbed of firearms and other articles.

A NATION survey yesterday revealed that plantation owners have taken measures to protect their homes.

Many of them spoke of reinforcing protection for their premises by being armed and using guard dogs at night to patrol their premises.

Other plantations without a watchman have hastened to employ one.

Manager of Boarded Hall

Plantation, Mr. David Fields, said: "Besides paying greater attention to protecting ourselves, there is nothing else we can do other than hope the law officers make a quick breakthrough."

"I live near the police station (Boarded Hall) and I am hoping for the best"

Another plantation manager, who preferred not to be named, said his house was "adequately armed" and he "hoped to pull the trigger first".

"I have got two dogs, a gun and I shut up early at night," said yet another. "By doing so I am taking my own precautions and I am leaving the rest up to the police."

Meanwhile NATION investigations showed that most Barbadians have disregarded pleas of "energy conservation" and have resorted to lighting up their premises in an effort to keep out intruders.

Chief among those going the extra mile to protect their homes, are estate owners and managers, businessmen and citizens living in developed areas.

Service Station Targets

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 10 Jan 85 p 20

[Excerpts] SEVERAL petrol dealers are failing to implement some of the security measures recommended by the police, and by so doing are inviting criminal elements to pounce on them, according to a senior police official.

The criticism came after the recent gas station robbery at Benthams, St. Lucy, where an undisclosed sum of money was taken from the attendant at closing time.

In addition, a survey has been conducted by the police to determine whether dealers have been sticking to the measures they had agreed to in 1983.

"Some stations stood by the recommendations they thought were very wise, but after nothing happened, some decided to revert to the old methods, like giving change," he said.

Following an upsurge in gas station robberies in 1982, Commissioner of Police Orville Durant and senior members of the force met with dealers from all the service stations and discussed security matters and the security of the attendants.

It was decided that all stations should have a chute through which the money from the sales could be passed to the safe from outside the station; that the attendant would not have access to the money or have large sums of money; that after 7 p.m. the attendant would not give change; and that special precautions would be taken when the money was being removed from the station.

Noting that the gas station have been prime targets for robberies, the official said "people know how much money these stations make...if the sums the robbers got were small, there would be no point in holding up the stations".

In the final analysis, he maintained, it was up to the dealers/owners to ensure that their attendants did not keep too much money on their persons; and it was up to the owners to follow police instructions and protect attendants and their customers," he emphasised.

A mobile robbery squad has been established to respond to these hold-ups and if possible, to prevent them, he disclosed.

Durant Assurances

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 11-12 Jan 85 p 1

[Article by Roy Morris]

[Text]

THE police have the crime situation in Barbados under control.

This was made absolutely clear yesterday morning by Commissioner of Police, Mr. Orville Durant, during an interview with the WEEKEND NATION at his Police Headquarters office in Bridgetown.

The commissioner's comments have come after a spate of armed robberies, including that at Airy Hill, in St. George, in which a police constable was shot in the face and had to be sent overseas for emergency treatment.

On whether the Barbados Defence Force should be called on to assist in the search for the robbers, who are also believed to be responsible for the murder of Mr. Cyril Sianett, manager of Francia Plantation, Mr. Durant said:

"We are in control of the situation. There is absolutely no need for the army to be called out under the present circumstances. I believe that if we deployed the army in St. George there might be no more robberies there. But, there are a number of things to consider if this is done.

"We have to bear in mind that we would be setting a precedent, and there will be consequences."

Mr. Durant, however, added: "But at the same time, I will make

London stocks report

CLOSING STOCKS

Aluminium	147	Castbury Sch.	169
Anglo Siam	146	Common. (In. Aus)	192
Bank of India	144	Goldfields	148
Bank of China	144	Distillers	303
Bank of China	144	Glaxo	Susp
Bank of China	144	Harbinger	296
Bank of China	144	Imperial	526
Bank of China	144	Imperial	216
Bank of China	144	Imperial	216

Public Support

Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 11-12 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

COMMISSIONER Orville Durant said yesterday he had no evidence to support newspaper reports that some communities were forming themselves into vigilante groups to protect themselves, following recent armed robberies in St. George.

However, in a WEEKEND NATION interview, he agreed that the spirit of cooperation which the police were now receiving from the public, would suggest that if the proposed Neighbourhood Watch Scheme had been implemented, the job of criminal investigators would be much easier today.

He said after he had read the newspaper report, he had made some enquiries, and came up with nothing to suggest there were vigilante groups operating in communities in St. George, or any other part of the country.

But the commissioner gave the assurance that as soon as the present situation was cleared up, he would go back to the

authorities with his scheme. He said he would try to have it implemented and functioning as soon as was possible. If such a scheme had been in place, said Mr. Durant, the police would have had organised help within each community.

Mr. Durant also said he would be pressing ahead with his proposal to build up a reserve of special constables, who would give at least one day of service to the force each week, so they could learn the rudiments of policing.

When the need arose, he added, these could be used to strengthen the regular ranks of the department.

According to the commissioner, he also has plans to give island constables special training to allow them to make a more meaningful contribution to the maintenance of law and order.

He proposed a scheme in which there would be much closer contact between the force and the island constables.

CSO: 3298/350

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

COAST GUARD BOAT IN DRYDOCK--The flagship of the Coast Guard arm of the Barbados Defence Force (BDF), the "Trident" (above) is now back on dry dock. However, BDF officials have declined to state the reason for the vessel being taken from the water. Last September 6, the Bds \$20 million boat suffered extensive damage to its bow and stern after going out of control at the mouth of the Careenage. It was placed on drydock and what were reported to be temporary repairs were carried out. The boat was returned to the water but remained tied to its berth in the Careenage since that time. [Photo caption; photo not reproduced] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Jan 85 p 1]

UK INVESTMENT AID--BRITAIN is willing to help Barbados attract British and other European investments to its shores. That assurance has come from the Minister of Trade in the Margaret Thatcher administration, Mr. Paul Channon. He said Britain had already made a significant contribution to the industrialisation efforts of Barbados and other Caribbean states by paving the way for their manufactured goods to enter Europe duty-free. "I am not knocking the CBI (Caribbean Basin Initiative), which I think is a very good thing, but all of your industrial products have free rights of entry into the European Community which is a much larger market than the United States and even richer in total," Mr. Channon said. "We would certainly be delighted to encourage investment in the West Indies and in Barbados. Chafing at the suggestion that Britain had displayed little or no interest in the economic and social development of Caribbean states since they became independent, Mr. Channon said in an interview with the WEEKEND NATION that it was inevitable that the nature of the relationship between Britain and the West Indian nations would change after states attained their sovereignty. "What I strongly believe is that there is a role, still, for Britain to play in the affairs of the West Indies and in the affairs of Barbados." He went on. "And that's true whether it is in the sporting field, getting your industrial products into Europe where you have free rights of entry or whether there is help in education." [Excerpt] [Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 11-12 Jan 85 p 2]

CSO: 3298/351

BOLIVIA

MARXIST POLITICAL PARTIES PROPOSE JOINT FRONT

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Jan 85 p 6

[Text] The Marxist-Leninist Communist Party (PC-ML), the Revolutionary Workers Party (POR) and the Tupak Katari Indian Movement-1 (MITKA-1) are of the opinion that the formation of political fronts with a similar ideological line "would not weaken their program line for the defense of the interests of the working class and national liberation."

The leader Guillermo Richter Asimani claimed that the political parties "should be formed around a definite ideological concept, with a program of government action that cannot be other than one to defend the interests of the working class and the popular movement."

He maintained that, when the parties operate in accordance with basically viable objectives, they can be described as genuine political groups, but if they operate seeking material accomplishments at the expense of the people's interests, regardless of how very large they may be numerically, they are really only "hordes united around circumstantial interests, without any national significance."

He remarked that the political parties cannot be gauged by the number of members, but rather by the objectives that they propose to attain. The latter must respond to the national interests and to national liberation; they must be concerned with eliminating poverty and backwardness. "The proliferation of leftist parties is a reality that entails a twofold feature: the positive one being the immense creative force as a political alternative, and the negative one being an exaggerated splintering detrimental to the establishment of a vanguard capable of saving the country and aimed at national liberation and socialism."

POR

The head of the Revolutionary Workers Party (POR), Guillermo Lora, claimed that political parties, in order to be such, must have a program for action. "There are groups lacking programs and ideology; they are not political parties, because they do not defend the interests of the proletariat."

Commenting on the number of members that a political party should have, he said: "That is actually relative; for example, MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] and its alliances are electoral clubs; they are hordes, but POR is a party of revolutionaries, and for this reason it is a relative aspect. I think that the number of members is a trap of the right wing."

He said that the political parties could participate in the elections next June through the formation of fronts, because this is a result of the political machinery.

MITKA-1

The candidate for the presidency from the Tupak Katari Indian Movement-1, Constantino Lima, declared that the political parties "should have at least one representative in Congress. Only in that way can they be called parties.

"As for the membership, I think that they should have at least 5,000 members, in the case of political parties that have not participated in national elections. Those that have participated should have between 15,000 and 20,000 members."

He added: "We also agree that there should be a law on political parties whereby the candidates are elected on the basis of their ideology and wherein it is stipulated that there must be three major political fronts: one of the left, one of the right and, finally, the Indian movement, which should comprise the positions taking part in the national elections next June."

Lima asserted that the political parties with leftist, rightist or Indian tendencies should unite to participate in the elections.

2909

CSO: 3348/294

BOLIVIA

COB SECRETARY GENERAL TO CALL ON LEFTIST POLITICAL GROUPS

La Paz HOY in Spanish 9 Jan 85 p 12

[Text] The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] is considering the possibility of calling upon leftist political groups to pool opinions regarding the national situation and to analyze the politico-economic status of the country. COB leaders said that COB intends to establish concrete guidelines for action.

After a discussion of the economic issue, the political analysis will continue today and, eventually, a document will be released, aimed at re-updating the Emergency Economic Plan, and it will be submitted to the different union organizations for consideration.

The COB secretary general, Walter Delgadillo, declared that the Executive Committee is analyzing the current situation and the projections, considering the fact that the general elections will take place in June, as well as the prospects of the right in the latter.

He noted that most of the leaders are aware of the fact that it is difficult to achieve the implementation of the Emergency Economic Plan with an alien government, but that the consequences of the crisis among the working class, particularly in the matter of wages, prices and supplies, must not be overlooked.

COB's secretary for disputes, Fernando Fuentes, for his part, commented that this type of analysis is aimed at finding areas of agreement among the members of the Executive Committee. There are opposing positions that must end up in a uniform judgment to achieve the unity of the working class, he stressed.

He claimed that, in the economic area, we are faced with the issuance of new measures, which have been assessed by COB in order to announce a concrete position coming out in defense of the people's economy.

While remarking that what is happening in the country and what is to be done must be spelled out, considering the fact that the right is preparing for the general elections with serious options for victory, the COB leader emphasized that the Unified Revolutionary Directorate (DRU) was nothing but an election-oriented alliance that managed to assume positions in the workers' central organization but that does not represent the working class' position.

It was also noted that the People's Coordinating Group has no influence over the national political activity, and for this reason it is necessary to pool ideas with the parties associated with COB and the popular camp.

BOLIVIA

PEASANT LEADER CHARGES GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 12 Jan 85 p 9

[Test] Yesterday, the departmental peasants' congress of the Tupac Katari Federation in La Paz ended in division, when the delegates from 15 of the 18 provinces in the department left the site of the discussions and announced the election of their own union leadership.

Luis Katari, a member of the Single Trade Union Confederation of Farm Workers (CSUTCB), headed by Genaro Flores, said that there had been an attempt to "manipulate the election of the La Paz Federation's new executive committee, and therefore 15 provincial representatives left the meeting and formed the new departmental union leadership."

Katari claimed that Genaro Flores' sector is attempting "to continue hegemonizing the La Paz peasant union leadership, accusing its opponents of being government-oriented and members of political parties."

The delegates from the 15 La Paz provinces went to the La Paz Peasant Federation headquarters, where they elected their departmental leaders.

Luis Katari, secretary for coca leaf marketing of CSUTCB, said that he had sworn in the new executive committee, headed by Eusebio Quito, Gregorio Choque, Elias Choque and Pascual Guaicho.

The peasants said that if CSUTCB, in a plenary session, does not officially recognize the new departmental executive committee, they would immediately start blockading roads in the 15 provinces that they represent.

Genaro Flores

At 1800 hours yesterday, the executive secretary of the Single Trade Union Confederation of Farm Workers of Bolivia, Genaro Flores, charged that the government-oriented group provided 180 million Bolivian pesos so that "certain leaders could attempt to divide the congress." He claimed to have documents from the Ministry of Campesino and Livestock Affairs confirming his charge. Flores said: "If there are attacks in the Congress, Minister Moscoso will be solely to blame."

2909

CSO: 3348/294

BOLIVIA

STOPPAGES ATTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENT'S IMPOTENCE

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 12 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] There were a total of 190 strikes and stoppages in 1984 in the productive labor sector, according to an official report PRESENCIA obtained at the Ministry of Labor. Of that total, 97 were caused by wage demands and 93 for other demands.

The productive sectors listed by the Ministry of Labor are: agriculture-livestock, mining, oil, industry, construction, energy, water and sewerage and transportation and communication. The total number of days not worked are computed by accumulation--that is, by adding the strikes by each union or federation.

There were four strikes in the agricultural-livestock sector; three were indefinite and one was a hunger strike. The total number of days lost was 4 (200 hours) affecting 15,000 people who participated in the strikes. One was motivated by wage demands and three for other reasons.

In the mining sector there were 74 strikes: 12 were 24-hour strikes, 3 were 48-hour strikes, 2 were for 72 hours, 31 were indefinite, 1 was a slowdown and 4 were hunger strikes. The total number of days not worked was 31 (7,444 hours). Of those conflicts, 24 were for wage demands and 34 were not. About 200,465 workers participated.

There were 11 strikes in the oil sector in 1984: 4 for 24 hours, 1 for 48 hours, 4 indefinite, 1 slowdown and 1 hunger strike. The total number of days not worked was 34 (216 hours). Some 45,000 workers participated in those strikes. Three were for wage demands and eight were not.

There were 46 strikes in the industrial sector: 6 for 24 hours, 4 for 48 hours, 16 indefinite, 2 slowdowns and 3 hunger strikes. The total number of days not worked was 162 (3,642 hours). Some 5,400 workers participated in the strikes. Wages were the cause for 25 strikes and 19 were for other reasons.

In the construction sector, there were nine strikes. It was explained that one was a 24-hour strike, one was for 48 hours, six were indefinite and one was a hunger strike. Days not worked totaled 41 (448 hours). About 21,475 workers participated in the strikes, seven for wages and two for other reasons.

There were 17 strikes in the energy, water and sewerage sector last year: 3 for 24 hours, 2 for 48 hours, 8 indefinite, 3 slowdowns and 2 hunger strikes. The total days not worked was 62 (520 hours) and 1,593 workers participated. There were 15 strikes because of wages and 2 for other reasons.

In transportation and communication, there was a total of 35 strikes: 4 for 24 hours, 4 for 48 hours, 25 indefinite, 1 slowdown and 1 hunger strike. Hours lost totaled 261 (3,915 hours) involving 11,514 workers. There were 21 strikes for wage reasons and 14 for other reasons.

Official Explanation

Jose Luis Calderon Ruiz, director of planning, and the head of the Sectorial Office of Statistics at the Ministry of Labor were asked about the statistical data on strikes in the productive sector. They explained that the majority began because the state could not meet demands.

In the cases of mining and the oil sector, they indicated that a large percentage of the strikes stemmed from the workers' desire to procure currency from the government for the renovation of work equipment and spare parts.

They added that due to the economic crisis, the state could not immediately meet those demands since the country has a shortage of foreign currency. There were also strikes in the mining sector so that the grocery stores in the production centers would be stocked.

They added that the strikes for wages were caused by the workers' requests to increase their wages which are constantly diminished by inflation.

In the case of the transportation sector, these authorities explained that the transporters stopped work to pressure the government to increase rates. That affected the general situation of the country since increases in transportation have direct repercussions on prices and reduce the buying power of wages.

The authorities consulted indicated: "It is true that the transporters need to insure the operation of their vehicles but, in many cases, they want to maintain the profit margin they enjoyed under the military dictatorships in order to own two, three or more vehicles."

Finally Calderon Ruiz and Mezza indicated that the labor conflicts proliferated in productive sectors in 1984 due to political mistakes in investment by "past military dictatorships." They noted: "They are the result of a bad investment policy by past governments."

7717

200: 3348/298

BOLIVIA

LEFT DICTATORSHIPS BLAMED FOR LABOR STRIFE

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] There were 500 strikes in the country in 1984, according to an official statistical report on social-labor conflicts drawn up by the Ministry of Labor. Of that total, 61.2 percent were caused by wage demands (306) and the rest, 38.8 percent, by other demands (194).

The report indicated that the general total of strikes last year was 310: 110 were 24-hour strikes, 76 were for 48 hours, 17 for 72 hours, 237 were indefinite, 31 were slowdowns and 44 were hunger strikes.

The total number of days not worked was 2,573 making a total of 32,839 hours lost by 2,082,791 workers. This total refers to total (accumulated) strikes.

The COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] declared six strikes: one was for 24 hours, one for 72 hours and four were indefinite strikes. A total of 30 work days was lost (540 hours) when 529,599 workers stopped work. Five of those strikes were for wages and one was not.

The C/D [Departmental Worker Federations] declared seven strikes in 1984: one was for 24 hours, one for 72 hours and five were indefinite. Four of those conflicts were for wages and three were not.

Private enterprise saw two strikes, one for 24 hours and another for 48 hours, totaling 3 days not worked (54 hours). In both cases wage demands were not the cause.

Outside of those management-labor sectors, there were strikes last year by other sectors prohibited by the General Labor Law from suspending services: the police (one 24-hour strike), public administration (75 strikes), civil commitments (10), judicial workers (18), prefectures (3), municipal workers (6) and banks and insurance companies (43).

The strikes the COB called were not always for wage reasons but also demanded the application of its emergency economic plan. Private enterprise for the first time instructed its members to stop work to protest against the government's socioeconomic policy.

Official Version

Jose Luis Calderon Ruiz and Victor Mezza, director of planning and head of the Sectorial Office of Statistics respectively of the Ministry of Labor, indicated that the conflictive social panorama revealed by the 1964 statistics was due in some cases to "unequal wage distribution in the different sectors of national productivity."

They recalled the case of the Central Bank of Bolivia (at the beginning of the year). The high wages that its officials earned were reported which provoked many labor sectors to adopt measures to "receive similar treatment." Another case was the YIFE (Bolivian Government (NY) Deposits) where "leveling" was demanded.

Those authorities said the Ministry of Labor had the greatest responsibility to resolve the strikes. It frequently "had its dynamics for intervention limited, especially in problems there were beyond its control."

Calderon Ruiz and Mezza said that "the lack of understanding by management to reach agreements that guarantee a good worker-management relationship and national production also influenced" this proliferation of conflicts.

They added that an important percentage of conflicts were caused by political positions aimed at "creating problems for the government by presenting demands the state could not meet. One example is the Civic Committees that began to make enormous regional demands. Government committees were frequently infiltrated in those organisms to create the problems during political change."

"The spread of conflicts cannot be attributed exclusively to the government. They were also the product of the accumulation of problems under the circumstances. These naturally blossomed with the democratic opening."

The high number of strikes that paralyzed the national production system "will be reflected in a drop in production and productivity with the consequent negative effect on the production of goods and services in the country and a lower supply of goods and services."

The authorities PRESENTA pointed out the social-labor conflicts in 1964 added that the figures for last year "must show all the people in the country think hard so that we face the future and the 1965-66 economic situation with a new mentality."

7717

CSO: 3342/293

BOLIVIA

SANTA CRUZ LABOR UNION TO SHIFT STRATEGY

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Jan 85 p 6

[Text] Santa Cruz, 12 Jan--The Santa Cruz Departmental Labor Federation (COD) says that it will propose to its parent entity (COB [Bolivian Labor Federation]) a change in the strategy for the workers' struggle for better living conditions throughout the year that has now begun.

Jose Justiniano, secretary general of the Santa Cruz COD, told PRESENCIA that, after the experience in 1984, the organized labor movement must make an evaluation of its struggles so as to redirect its action during 1985, if necessary.

Justiniano expressed the opinion that the struggle for definite wage goals, such as those proposed last year, does not make much sense when one considers the inflationary process that the country is undergoing.

As that leader remarked, the 935,000 Bolivian peso base wage, achieved by the workers' strikes in November and early December of last year, has been of virtually no benefit to the workers' purse. He claimed that this minimum wage has been far exceeded by the uncontrollable rise in prices of items of prime necessity.

Justiniano came out in favor of a change in the strategy for struggle on the national level, and said that the Bolivian labor movement must propose in-depth goals for itself, to correct the country's prospects.

He noted that, on the departmental level, there is a predisposition toward revising certain positions and proposing others, of real benefit to the workers.

The issue will be debated next Monday, at the first regular expanded session of 1985, to be held by the Santa Cruz COD. At the meeting, a proposal will also be submitted by the department's prefect, Marcelo Velarde, to have the organized labor movement participate in the distribution of food, to prevent speculation, lack of control over prices and shortages of supplies.

Some time ago, the leading political authority in the department declared himself powerless to curb the hike in prices, and called upon every housewife to watch over her economy by herself. Now, the prefect has requested COD to take part in the food distribution.

Justiniano has appeared reluctant to assign the unions to that job, but he has pointed out that the expanded session will make the pertinent decision in a democratic fashion.

The problem of the reluctance to participate is associated with the possibility that the leaders might find themselves involved in the general "wave of corruption" that has been observed in this district.

2909

CSO: 3348/294

BOLIVIA

REPORTAGE ON FIFTH CONFERENCE OF UNIVERSITY RECTORS, LEADERS

Call for Political Discussion

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] Santa Cruz, 10 Jan--At the opening of the Fifth Conference of University Rectors and Leaders at the university auditorium today, Jerjes Justiniano, rector of the Gabriel Rene Moreno University in this city, exhorted the Bolivian university system to debate the national political situation and defend democracy.

Justiniano denounced that "antinational interests try to hurt the democratic process" and that the call for elections is unconstitutional.

He maintained that the university cannot remain indifferent when sectarian interests continue to affect the fate of the country. He asked his colleagues if the university should "remain silent" when an "unconstitutional political agreement" facilitates the way to general elections earlier than planned.

According to him, there must be an urgent response to this since the "right, in addition to violating the political constitution, has not discarded the idea of a regressive coup to reach power."

That coup, according to Justiniano, could arrive or begin with terrorist attacks as occurred recently when unknown persons machine-gunned the departmental police building.

He said: "The survival of university autonomy is involved with and depends on the survival of democracy." Therefore, the Santa Cruz rector exhorted his colleagues to debate this topic.

Also at the opening, Anibal Jerez, leader of the Santa Cruz FUL (Local University Federations), denounced the rise of a "new pressure group in Santa Cruz" that seeks its "political correlation" in the elections.

The university leader maintained that the elections will not solve any of the essential problems of the country. He stated that if the government or military wins the elections, they will continue to repress the popular movement.

Alberto Alem, executive secretary of the CUB [Bolivian University Confederation], maintained that the political plan begun in October 1982 is now "divided, eroded and exhausted." He said: "Populism only served to promote a bourgeois and dependent plan so that nothing has changed."

However, he said that the fact that there was no progress in the last 2 years in the search for basic solutions is the responsibility of all Bolivians. He exhorted them to seriously reflect on the fate of the country.

About the meeting, Alem said specifically that in these 2 days they will try to guarantee the survival of the Bolivian state university system.

Jorge Von Borries representing the Santa Cruz professors exhorted an "end to the economic discussions" within the university. He wanted to abandon the model of government support and, instead, create their own resources so that the university become self-supporting.

Alfonso Via Reque, executive secretary of the CEUB [expansion unknown], reported that this organization negotiates with the government for the return of taxes abolished by the dictatorships. These represented resources for the universities themselves.

Via Reque exhorted them to maintain the internal unity of the university and to encourage unity between the university and the popular movement. He reported that the government has promised to guarantee the functioning of the Bolivian university and gave figures of past support and support available now.

Jorge Trigo, rector of the University of Cochabamba, spoke in the name of all the rectors present. He said that the university must ignore fear and speak out for the transformation of the country as a way to overcome the crisis.

The 2-day meeting will almost exclusively discuss the economic support allocated by the government to the universities. It will also analyze and audit the university budget for the 1985 fiscal year.

In-Depth Economic Plan Needed

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] Santa Cruz, 10 Jan--Only an economic program with in-depth and long-term transformations can correct the current "problems" in the national economy. This does not just mean inflation, according to Pablo Poma, well-known economist and current rector of the UMSA [Greater University of the Andes], in La Paz today.

The rector of the UMSA is attending the Fifth Conference of University Rectors and Leaders in the state university system. Asked by PRESENCIA, he said that inflation is only part of the economic crisis that afflicts the country.

He explained that the crisis is due to the decrease in agricultural, mining, industrial and oil production and the increase in services--that is, commerce, trade and public administration.

"It is necessary to stop this relationship now between work to produce wealth and unproductive work, a consumer of wealth. This is the only way to end this crisis."

In answer to another question, Ramos maintained that unfortunately "there are no prospects" for the country to end the current situation in the immediate future but in the long term. He said: "There must be an economic program that, at this time, is hard to formulate and apply. We hope the democratic process will demand that the participants in the electoral campaign present a consistent program that is not temporary but is for long-term economic and social transformations."

Ramos said that the stabilization plan announced by the current government can only be palliative with temporary measures until August when the government will change. According to him, the serious part will come later when the new government is forced to responsibly face a solution to the crisis.

Ramos also said that, despite the current difficulties, the Bolivian people must not lose hope for better days. "We are a country rich in resources, with greater capacity for recovery than the neighboring countries."

Asked about what the sectors with fixed income should do, especially the wage-earners, the economist maintained that this sector must fight to guarantee its unity and present its own battle plan to maintain the purchasing power of wages.

Opposition to Private Universities

La Paz REFERENCIA in Spanish 15 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] The Fifth Conference of University Rectors and Leaders has made the decision to oppose private universities and has asked for the repeal of the legal provisions that authorize their establishment. It has requested that the university councils discuss and define a "battle strategy to achieve the repeal of those legal provisions."

It indicated that the Bolivian university "is identified with the struggles of the working people to achieve a new model of society. Making higher education private creates an ideology in its graduates tending to strengthen the existing system of private wealth generated by the working people to benefit a privileged minority and continue a cultural neocolonialism contrary to national interests."

The Fifth Conference of University Rectors and Leaders met in Santa Cruz on 10 and 11 January. The deliberations were held at Rene Gabriel Moreno University. The meeting maintained that "the deepening of autonomy is indivisible from democracy."

It approved the consolidated budget of the Bolivian university for 1985 and deliberated on the economic problems that face higher education. It decided that the University Economic Commission would visit the new minister of finance to discuss solutions to the university's economic problems.

The resolutions approved included providing technical advice for the organization of the Technical University of Pando. The report by the 20th Century University Commission was approved and the School of Mines and Metallurgy was authorized to operate.

It assigned the CEUB to negotiate with the government for a professional contribution for the university of 0.5 percent of the total earned by national professionals and 1 percent by foreigners.

It decided to ask the government for application and compliance with Resolution 4 of this month on participation in the taxes on liquor, wine, brandy, etc.

7717

CSO: 3348/297

BOLIVIA

YPFB 1985 PLAN TO GENERATE \$390 MILLION IN FOREIGN CURRENCY

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] is currently reviewing the 1985 operational plan that will go into effect in the coming days. It includes an investment of \$144 million to increase proven reserves and the production of hydrocarbons in order to guarantee the normal national fuel supply.

The goals, objectives and bases of the plan include the generation of foreign currency through the export of surplus hydrocarbons, the rationalization of consumption and the efficient use of national energy resources.

The goals are to discover 15 billion liquid hydrocarbons and 448×10^9 cubic feet of natural gas in additional reserves and maintain a relationship of approximately 20 to 1 between reserves and national production of liquid hydrocarbons.

It seeks to produce crude oil, condensate and natural gas in the fields operated by the YPFB in quantities capable of satisfying the consumption needs of the country and generating a surplus in order to export natural gas, liquid gas, white gasoline, etc., to earn revenue of \$390 million in the fiscal year. This will also generate an economic surplus in operations of about \$260 million.

The goals that were outlined are based on an analysis by the YPFB technicians on the current situation of the enterprise. "The future of the national supply of hydrocarbons in 1985 and 1986 is very critical. It will be necessary to make every effort to activate production in the fields currently being exploited, develop new fields and put fields discovered in past years into production with the intention of increasing production levels and preventing shortages that would otherwise occur in 1987."

Operational Plan

The operational plan that is now in rough draft and that will be finalized in the coming days and presented to the minister of energy and hydrocarbons covers approximately 50 percent of the resources in the investment program for the year. These will be allocated for the development of the Vuelta Grande, Santa Cruz, Humberto Suarez and Pena fields, drilling new wells in Caranda,

Colpa and Rio Grande, the installation of production facilities, projects of secondary recovery, and equipment for production units.

YIFB proposes to maintain the level of prices, in dollars, of supplies and the sale of hydrocarbons during the year to avoid and eliminate the inflationary effect in calculations and projections. It wants the tax structure in the General Hydrocarbons Law to remain in effect. The operating contractor companies will produce 7,000 barrels per day of liquid hydrocarbons and 64.8 million cubic feet of natural gas in the fields they operate. Of this, 2,000 barrels of liquid gas per day and 8 million cubic feet of natural gas per day will go to the YIFB under existing contracts. According to the report, 1,000 barrels per day of oil and condensate will eventually take care of the YIFB production shortages and 2.7 million cubic feet per day of gas will be for export.

The plan is optimistic in the financial sector when it states: "The program planned for the disbursement of payments for foreign credit will be carried out. There is assurance that the government will provide adequate and timely foreign currency."

The exploration of stratigraphic traps is being carried out with foreign credit. The ICB is collaborating in this. A contract has already been signed with a foreign enterprise in the 1984 fiscal year for an investment of more than \$12 million to drill wells north of Rio Grande de Santa Cruz.

Prospecting activity refers to seismic projects and intensive seismic complementation over 1,100 kilometers in the central plains.

Balance

Now the top personnel in the enterprise is drawing up the balance for the 1984 fiscal year. According to preliminary data, 1984 will yield good profits for the enterprise but not as much as in the operational plan. This was due to problems both in the social sector as well as in the provision of timely foreign currency from the government. The executives of the enterprise had to draw up an emergency plan that has not yet been completed. This plan is for the rehabilitation of several exhausted wells.

7711

COB: 1/42/84

BOLIVIA

YPFB 1985 RECOVERY SEEN CONTINGENT ON NEW DISCOVERIES

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 12 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Production of crude oil and condensate in the 1984 fiscal year totaled 7,600,558 barrels, according to YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] statistics.

This was 499,240 barrels less than production in the 1983 fiscal year.

The 1983 production totaled 8,099,798 barrels of crude oil and condensate. The average daily production in 1983 was 22,191 barrels. In 1984, this decreased to 20,823 barrels per day.

The drop in daily production of crude oil and condensate in the 1984 fiscal year is 1,368 barrels. This will drop further this fiscal year if YPFB does not rehabilitate the wells that are exhausted and begin drilling exploratory wells.

According to the statistical data, YPFB produced 11,844,276 barrels in the 1978 fiscal year. From this, it can be deduced that daily production was 32,450 barrels. National consumption was 20,000 barrels per day so the balance was exported to neighboring countries.

Still based on statistical data, production in the past fiscal year was 20,823 barrels per day and consumption was 24,000 per day with a subsequent shortage of approximately 4,000 barrels per day.

Production Chart from January to November

The statistical chart on production of crude oil and condensate from January to November 1984 shows that there has been a drop in production compared to October.

The chart shows that 668,697 barrels were produced in October and 625,331 in November. There was a drop of 43,366 barrels.

In November there was a 15-day strike by the Bolivian Labor Federation and a strike by the Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Oil Workers asking for better wages and currency for the implementation of the emergency plan that was about to fail due to lack of acquisition of material and equipment.

The summary of production of crude oil and condensate processed by the YPFB is as follows:

Summary of Crude Oil, Condensate Production
(Barrels)

<u>Year</u>	YPFB				<u>Total</u>
	<u>Southern District</u>	<u>Central District</u>	<u>Santa Cruz Division</u>	<u>Operating Contractors</u>	
1978	2,634,503	2,130,360	6,143,375	936,038	11,844,276
1979	2,410,907	1,208,896	5,430,686	1,123,215	10,173,704
1980	2,031,994	923,204	4,673,715	1,075,056	8,703,969
1981	1,841,841	771,910	4,043,130	1,434,217	8,091,098
1982	1,633,771	858,289	3,342,978	3,083,258	8,918,296
1983	1,715,732	1,014,843	2,495,505	2,873,718	8,099,798
1984					
Jan	153,921	88,624	194,344	235,071	671,960
Feb	142,206	80,610	179,028	213,164	615,008
Mar	147,171	84,935	183,350	225,695	641,151
Apr	137,386	70,077	174,161	218,929	609,553
May	141,692	88,927	175,870	220,964	627,453
Jun	150,098	86,934	171,121	226,404	634,557
Jul	151,762	86,689	177,682	245,139	661,272
Aug	151,185	85,683	167,481	221,803	626,152
Sep	145,947	85,683	163,289	199,174	594,093
Oct	152,928	128,778	165,282	221,709	668,697
Nov	148,864	124,446	154,582	197,439	625,331
Total	1,623,160	1,020,386	1,906,190	2,425,491	6,975,227

7717

CSO: 3348/292

BOLIVIA

DANISH LOAN TO FINANCE GAS BOTTLING PLANT

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] has begun to install a new bottling plant for liquid gas in the Senkata zone (La Paz). It will begin operations at the end of next year, according to official YPFB information.

It was indicated that the expansion plan for the liquid gas bottling plants is financed with a loan from the Danish Government of \$5 million to import equipment. The credit agreement was approved last month.

Expansion of the Senkata plant will be accompanied by similar expansion in the bottling plants in the interior of the country where YPFB also bottles liquid gas and the construction of new ones in districts where they do not yet exist, especially in eastern and southern Bolivia.

The new La Paz bottling plant with a carousel with 24 injectors will increase bottling capacity to more than 37,000 bottles per day. The Senkata plant now bottles a maximum of 16,000 bottles per day which is not enough to meet the growing local demand.

The expansion which started in the beginning of December will have a bottle maintenance system, according to the YPFB spokesmen. It will be completed by the end of 1985.

The gas bottling plant that now operates in Senkata was installed in 1975.

Need for Bottles

According to the YPFB spokesmen, the enterprise now needs 100,000 bottles to meet the demand and replace its stock.

At the national level, the YPFB has about 450,000 bottles but this figure is constantly surpassed by demand.

The informants finally indicated the urgency for the Ministry of Finance to authorize the YPFB to import more bottles.

7717

CSO: 3348/292

CHILE

NEW DECREES TO BOLSTER COLONIZATION EFFORTS

Tax Exemptions Described

Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 15 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] A system designed to give preferential tariff and tax treatment to the territory of Region XII (Magallanes and the Chilean Antarctic), located south of the Strait of Magellan, has taken effect and will last for 25 years. Law 18,392 of the Finance Ministry, which provides for these incentives, was published yesterday in the Official Gazette.

All businesses that conduct industrial, mining, marine resources development, transportation and tourism activities exclusively, and that install facilities in those territories, will be exempt from taxes and tariffs. They must make rational use of natural resources and guarantee the conservation of the natural environment.

The industries involved in the exploitation and processing of hydrocarbons in any form are not subject to these exemptions.

Exemptions

The businesses that comply with the requirements set forth in this law will enjoy the following exemptions:

--Their profits will be exempt from the first-category tax of the Income Tax Law.

--The taxpayers who own these businesses may use the credit established in that law in the calculation of their General Complementary Tax.

--They will not have to pay duties, taxes, rates or any other fees levied by Customs on imports of any foreign goods necessary to carry out their activities. This includes machinery, equipment, raw materials, etc.

The above exemption does not include weapons or their parts, munitions or any item that jeopardizes national security, morality, health, good customs and plant and animal health. Ships are also part of this exception.

--The state will pay a bonus of 20 percent of sales to the businesses that locate in these territories, in the form of a deduction from the Value Added Tax.

--The sales and services that are carried out by people who maintain domiciles or reside in the zone for others who also maintain domiciles or reside there, and that affect goods and services located, rendered or utilized in the zone, are exempt from the taxes levied under Decree-Law 825 of 1974.

--Real estate located in the aforementioned zone is entirely exempt from the Territorial Tax levied by Law 17,235.

--Tourist businesses operating in the Antarctic territory are also exempt from the tax levied under Decree-Law 825 of 1974.

--Natural persons domiciled or residing in the zone may import duty-free from abroad, for use or consumption in the zone, all goods stipulated by the president of the republic by means of Finance Ministry decrees.

--Employers and persons in general domiciled or residing in the zone may receive the bonuses set forth in Article 10 of Decree-Law 889 of 1975 and DFL [expansion unknown] 15 of 1981.

--All residents of the zone who receive income generated or paid in the zone, whether in the active or passive sector, may claim double that amount as an Income Tax credit.

--In a transitory article, businesses established or to be established in the zone, on the terms indicated, are exempt from the additional tax rate imposed by Article 21 of the Income Tax Law for as long as that regulation is in effect.

--Finally, businesses already installed in the area before the promulgation of the law may benefit from it, as long as they meet its requirements within the next 6 months.

Housing Subsidy Explained

Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 15 Jan 85 p 13

[Text] The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has formulated a special housing subsidy program, aimed exclusively at complementing the National Resources Ministry's plans for colonizing Regions X, XI and XII.

The program is set forth in Decree 194 of the first secretariat of state. The decree stipulates how this direct state aid will operate, without any restitution requirement for the beneficiary, as in all government housing subsidies.

The decree thus states that persons who are considered heads of households under the colonization plans developed by the National Resources and Housing and Urban Development Ministries for Regions X (Los Lagos), XI (Aysen del

General Carlos Ibanez) and XII (Magallanes and the Chilean Antarctic), will be granted one-time housing subsidies.

This aid will help the beneficiary to finance housing for permanent residence by himself and his family. In accordance with the colonization plans, the residence must be built on land occupied by the beneficiary as owner, or by virtue of a provisional occupation permit issued by the Ministry of National Resources.

The new decree also indicates that the amount of the subsidies that will be granted under each colonization plan, to be paid out of the funds earmarked for that purpose in the budget, will be determined by resolutions of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. The same will apply to the approval of the lists of beneficiaries, in accordance with the order of preference determined by the Ministry of National Resources.

Terms

The special residential subsidy created for colonizers in the extreme south of the country will be granted through the SERVIU [expansion unknown] of Regions XI and XII, and its amount may not exceed 300 development units, or 90 percent of the value of the dwelling in question.

In this regard, it is noted that the value of the dwelling may include the corresponding freight expenses.

The housing financed by this subsidy may not be transferred for 5 years.

8926

CSO: 3348/305

COLOMBIA

RAMIREZ ANNOUNCES BETANCUR TRAVEL ITINERARY

PA050257 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Feb 85

["Informal Report" segment by Oscar Dominguez]

[Text] President Betancur will add long hours of international flights to his already voluminous log as resilient criollo traveler. Foreign Minister Ramirez Ocampo reported at noon today from Narino House that Colombia will have intense international activity. He cited President Betancur's trip to the United States this semester--for which no date has been set--and his 15 February meeting with his Ecuadoran counterpart at the Rumichaca International Bridge on the common border. Rumichaca is a Quechua word meaning bridge of stone.

On 28 February, the president will travel to Montevideo where he will attend the military transfer of power to Sanguinetti's democratic government. Then, he will cross the La Palta River into Argentina where he will meet with his colleague Raul Alfonsin, whose inauguration he also attended. He will be in Buenos Aires for 2 days. One evening while there he will visit the "Viejo Almacen," a cafe of bygone days where nostalgic accordion players from La Plata play famous tangos and milongs.

Subsequently, there will be international engagements in Suriname, Aruba, Guatemala and Brazil. The president will go to the land of bikinis, Pele, the bossanova, and Mardi Gras on 14 March for the inauguration of Brazilian president-elect Tancredo Neves. In his free time, the president will be in Bogota to continue harping on his slogan of "Yes, we can." Foreign Minister Ramirez made these remarks today at the Presidency after meeting with President Betancur.

CSO: 3348/354

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

EARTHQUAKE IN PASTO--Pasto--A strong earthquake that lasted 20 seconds shook the capital of Narino and surrounding corregimientos today. The quake occurred at 0445 local time but went unnoticed by the majority of people in Pasto, who were sleeping. No victims or damages were reported. [Text] [Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 4 Feb 85]

POLICE INFORMATION CHIEF--Lieutenant Colonel Pablo Cortes Larrarte has been appointed new chief of the national police's Information and Press Office replacing Colonel Felix Gallardo. [Excerpt] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Jan 85 p 8-A PA]

CSO: 3348/354

CUBA

INCOME, EXPENDITURE DATA FROM 1985 BUDGET LAW

Havana (HAWA) in Spanish 3 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] I, Flavio Bravo Pardo, President of the National Peoples Government Assembly of the Republic of Cuba, hereby certify:

That the National Peoples Government Assembly, during the 7th Regular Session of the 2nd legislature of 1984, has approved the following:

Whereas, The Council of Ministers, pursuant to the provisions of Article 96, Paragraph e) of the Constitution of the Republic, with relation to Article 20 of the Organic Law of the State Budgetary System, has drawn up and submitted the 1985 Draft State Budget to the National Peoples Government Assembly for discussion and approval, as set forth in Article 73, Paragraph e) of the aforementioned constitutional text and law; and

Whereas, The Draft that has been submitted is an appropriate instrument for the distribution and redistribution of that part of the Gross Social Product centralized by the State which is earmarked for the promotion of the national economy, the material and cultural well-being of society, defense, internal order, and the maintenance of the national agencies and organizations of the State Central Administration, in accordance with the Single Economic-Social Development Plan, and for the purposes of its proper execution; and

Whereas, The Draft State Budget includes the Provincial Budgets, in which the organs of the Provincial and Municipal Peoples Governments are allocated the resources they need to finance local productive, socio-cultural, scientific and administrative activities; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the National Peoples Government Assembly adopt the following

1985 STATE BUDGET LAW

Article 1. The 1985 State Budget contained in the following articles shall be effective from 1 January to 31 December in the aforementioned year.

Article 2. The 1985 State Budget is made up of the following revenues and expenditures:

Revenues:	Pesos
Proceeds from contributions by state sector of economy	11,108,100,000
Proceeds from taxes and other contributions by non-state sector of economy	24,000,000
Proceeds from taxes and fees paid by the public	179,100,000
Total revenues	11,311,200,000
Expenditures:	
Financing of productive sphere	3,329,700,000
Financing of housing and community services	723,800,000
Financing of education and public health	2,556,900,000
Financing of other socio-cultural activities and scientific activities	1,885,800,000
Financing of administrative expenses of organs of the Peoples Government, Courts, Prosecutor's Office and other agencies and organizations of the State	647,600,000
Financing of defense and internal order	1,470,900,000
Financing of other activities	446,200,000
Reserve	234,500,000
Total expenditures	11,295,400,000
Surplus	15,800,000

Article 3. The 1985 Central Budget, which includes the Social Security Budget, is as follows:

	Pesos
Revenues	7,906,700,000
Expenditures	7,890,900,000
Surplus	15,800,000

Article 4. The revenues of the Provincial Budgets from local agencies, from other taxes, contributions and fees paid by the non-state sector of the economy and the public, from non-tax sources and from the share of the Traffic Tax and the Restaurant, Lodging and Recreational Services Tax, are listed below, along with subsidies from the Central Budget and expenditures:

	Revenues	Subsidies	Expenditures
Pinar del Rio	179,800,000	59,200,000	239,000,000
Havana	286,200,000	--	286,200,000
City of Havana	854,800,000	--	854,800,000
Matanzas	239,700,000	--	239,700,000
Villa Clara	256,800,000	--	256,800,000
Cienfuegos	138,100,000	--	138,100,000
Sancti Spiritus	112,500,000	37,700,000	150,200,000
Ciego de Avila	89,000,000	49,500,000	138,500,000
Camaguey	244,400,000	9,300,000	253,700,000

Las Tunas	136,300,000	39,000,000	175,300,000
Holguin	218,500,000	88,500,000	307,000,000
Granma	162,400,000	78,300,000	240,700,000
Santiago de Cuba	343,800,000	--	343,800,000
Guantanamo	107,500,000	77,200,000	184,700,000
Island of Youth	34,700,000	49,600,000	84,300,000
Totals	3,404,500,000	488,300,000	3,892,800,000

Article 5. The Provincial Budgets' share of the Traffic Tax and the Restaurant, Lodging and Recreational Services Tax collected in their respective jurisdictions shall be as follows:

	Percent Share
Pinar del Rio	100
Havana	97
City of Havana	20
Matanzas	86
Villa Clara	31
Cienfuegos	79
Sancti Spiritus	100
Ciego de Avila	100
Camaguey	100
Las Tunas	100
Holguin	100
Granma	100
Santiago de Cuba	82
Guantanamo	100
Island of Youth	100

Article 6. The tax rate for the Social Security Contribution referred to in Article 22 of Decree-Law No. 44 of 1981 is set at 10 percent.

Article 7. The provincial and municipal organs of the Peoples Government shall be able to make use of any surpluses resulting in the following cases:

- a) Any revenues exceeding those called for in the budget under the "Other Revenues and Fees" and "Non-tax Revenues" categories, 25 percent; and any savings in current expenditures for budgeted activities obtained by reducing the per-unit expenditures approved for the provincial and municipal budgets, 50 percent.
- b) If the 25 percent is obtained for the surpluses in the "Other Revenues and Fees" and "Non-tax Revenues" categories, and if the per-unit expenditures are not met, the corresponding amount shall be deducted from the share of the aforementioned revenues.
- c) If the 50 percent for the savings in current expenditures is obtained for reducing per-unit expenses, and if the revenues called for in the budget under the "Other Taxes and Fees" and "Non-tax Revenues" categories are not obtained, the corresponding amount shall be deducted from the aforementioned savings.

Final Provisions

1. The Executive Committees of the Provincial Peoples Government Assemblies shall distribute, by section, the revenues approved for their respective budgets for the year 1985.
2. The Council of Ministers is hereby authorized to make the necessary adjustments in the revenues and expenditures of the State, Central and Provincial Budgets, affecting the approved reserve, as a consequence of any modifications it may make in the Single Social-Economic Development Plan during its evaluation and analysis, as well as modifications made by this Assembly, if such adjustments are not included in this Law.
3. This Law shall become effective as of the first day of January nineteen eighty-five.

Done in the City of Havana the 28th day of the month of December 1984. "Year of the 25th Anniversary of the Triumph of the Revolution."

8926

CSO: 3248/215

CUBA

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 3 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] I, Flavio Bravo Pardo, President of the National Peoples Government Assembly of the Republic of Cuba, hereby certify:

That the National Peoples Government Assembly, in the 2nd Session of 1984, has approved the following:

Whereas, Pursuant to the provisions of Article 16 of the Constitution of the Republic, the State organizes, directs and controls national economic activity, in accordance with the Single Economic-Social Development Plan, which is formulated and executed with the active and conscientious participation of the workers of all sectors of the economy and of other spheres of social life; and

Whereas, Pursuant to the provisions of Article 54, Paragraph b) of Decree-Law No. 67 "On the Organization of the State Central Administration" of 19 April 1983, the Central Planning Board has drawn up the draft of the Single Economic-Social Development Plan and submitted same to the Council of Ministers for its consideration; and

Whereas, Pursuant to the provisions of Article 96, Paragraph b) of the Constitution, the Council of Ministers has submitted the draft of the 1985 Single Social-Economic Development Plan to the National Assembly for its consideration; and

Whereas, The National Peoples Government Assembly has discussed the aforementioned draft plan and has considered the fact that in 1984 the Cuban economy has maintained a relatively high growth rate in material production, with a favorable impact on productive efficiency, even though the plan for the products which constitute the country's principal exportable funds (sugar, citrus fruits and nickel) has not been fulfilled.

Regarding investments, the plan gives top priority to those industries which will, in the shortest time, transform these investments into foreign exchange for the country, be it through exports or import substitutions in the convertible-currency area.

Secondary priority will be given to the major investment objectives, drawn up in cooperation with the socialist countries; such as the nickel plants, the electronuclear plant, the thermoelectric plants, the refineries, etc.

Tertiary priority is given to social objectives which might have a significant impact on the population in the area of public health, research, etc.

Construction by individuals will be encouraged by means of the appropriate allocations of material resources.

Efforts will continue to promote the efficient use of material resources, energy resources in particular.

The levels achieved so far in the standard of living of the population will be maintained, as a minimum, with modest growth where possible.

Therefore, the National Peoples Government Assembly, exercising the faculties conferred upon it, approves the 1985 State Single Economic-Social Development Plan, as submitted by the Council of Ministers, and adopts the following

1985 STATE SINGLE ECONOMIC-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN LAW

Article 1. The 1985 State Economic-Social Development Plan governs the activities corresponding to the period between 1 January and 31 December 1985, and compliance with it shall be mandatory for all State Central Organizations and Agencies, Local Peoples Government Organs and Enterprises and Budgetary Units.

Article 2. The following directive indicators shall apply to the entire economy in 1985:

	Percentage
Growth of Gross Social Product	4.5 - 5.0
Growth of industry	6
Growth of Retail Merchant Traffic	2.5 - 3.0
Growth of exports	7
Growth of non-sugar exports	20
Growth of wage base	3.0 - 3.5
Growth of productivity	3.5 - 4.0
Growth of average wage	1.5 - 2.0

Article 3. The following standard of living indicators, among others, are planned:

Housing units to be completed	35,000
Growth in number of children in day-care centers (enrollment)	4.0%
Growth in number of students in internal mid-level education system	6.0%
Growth in number of beds in medical care facilities	6.0%
Growth in number of doctors	10.0%

Article 4. The Council of Ministers is hereby directed to examine the recommendations and observations made by the deputies during the discussion of the 1985 Single Economic-Social Development Plan by the National Peoples Government Assembly, with a view to improving the execution of the Plan.

Article 5. In addition, the government is hereby directed to organize, direct and control the execution of the 1985 Single Economic-Social Development Plan

through the State Central Administration Agencies, each in its corresponding area, and to report to the National Peoples Government Assembly and the Local Organs of the Peoples Government on matters within their respective purviews.

Article 6. The Council of State is expressly authorized to make modifications in the approved Plan on its own initiative, in accordance with the needs that may arise during the execution of the Plan.

Final Provision

This Law shall take effect as of the first day of January nineteen eighty-five.

Done in the City of Havana, the 28th day of December 1984.

8926

CS0: 3248/215

CUBA

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICIALLY CONVOKES THIRD PARTY CONGRESS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 2 Jan 85 p 1

/Text/ In compliance with the Bylaws of the Communist Party of Cuba, the 10th Plenum of the Party Central Committee resolved to hold the Third Party Congress in December 1985 and to publish this call on 1 January, the date the entire nation marks with extraordinary rejoicing the 26th anniversary of the revolution's triumph.

The Central Preparatory Commission has been set up for this purpose; it is made up of the members of the Political Bureau and the Party Central Committee Secretariat whose job it is to address itself to the main points dealing with the organization of the Third Congress, to make the proper decisions in this respect, and to direct the entire prior political process, especially the conduct of the activity review meetings of the base organizations and the middle-level organizations of the party, as well as the election of the delegates to the Congress. To attain the above objectives, the Central Preparatory Commission will draw up the necessary work coordination steps with the Union of Young Communists, with the CTC /Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions/ and other social and mass organizations, as well as the agencies of the state's central administration.

The Third Party Congress will present a critical analysis of the results obtained during the pursuit of the political, economic, social, and cultural objectives approved by the Second Congress. In the light of the lessons learned from that review, the Third Congress will define the main tasks for the next 5-year term and will chart the fundamental projections for the development of Cuban society until the year 2000.

The Party Central Committee believes that conditions exist for drafting the Program of the Communist Party of Cuba.

This transcendental document--which will have to be the party's most important collective political and theoretical effort--will reaffirm the certainty of the socialist way chosen by the revolutionary people of Cuba and will present the prospects of its secure future.

The party's program will have its roots in the heroic history of the Cuban people and in the lessons learned during its national and social liberation struggles. More than 30 years of fighting, revolutionary changes, and triumphs under the leadership of Comrade Fidel Castro, the founder of the Communist Party and the socialist state, will nurture its conclusions.

The powerful flow of the scientific ideas of Marx, Engels, and Lenin; the contributions of the contemporary revolutionary worker and people's movement, and the gains of international socialism--these will be present in the formulations to be found in the party's program.

In the party's program, Cuba--protruding from the vigorous trunk of socialism--will demonstrate the current development levels of its society and the high goals to be attained through tremendous effort and austerity.

In the face of the crisis of capitalism, which is beyond repair, with its sequels of war, the arms race, exploitation, and economic, cultural, and social decadence, the party's program will express the creative optimism of socialism based on unquestionable realities.

The party's program draft will be discussed by the working class, by the entire working people, so that their opinions may be collected and studied; these opinions will undoubtedly enrich the content of its text.

The agenda of the Third Congress also includes the discussion and approval of the central report; the economic and social guidelines for the 1986-1990 five-year term; the amendments in the party's bylaws and the passage of important resolutions, including those dealing with the system for the direction and planning of the economy and the improvement of the country's political-administrative division.

The following will also be examined: The foreign policy of the Cuban revolution; the improvement of the agencies of people's government; the development of socialist democracy and socialist legality. There will also be a review of the stewardship of the Central Committee and the Control and Review Committee, as well as the operation of the party's bodies and organizations throughout the land.

The Congress will elect a commission which will take care of and decide on the appeals presented by the party's militants and membership applicants regarding the disciplinary measures that have been applied to them.

As the party's highest body, the Congress will elect the Central Committee which will see to compliance with its resolutions and the conduct of the party's policy in the job of directing society until the next congress is held.

Prior to the time the Third Congress is held, during this entire process, all of the country's workers will furthermore have an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the economic and social guidelines for the 1986-1990 five-year term; this will contribute to its improvement and to the subsequent support of the masses which is so decisive in the successful implementation of these measures.

The delegates to the Third Congress will be elected during the provincial assemblies and during the conferences of the MINFAR /Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces/ and the MININT /Ministry of Interior/ on the basis of a representation formula calling for one delegate for every 350 party militants and membership applicants, as well as, directly, in a group of base organizations specially selected at workplaces and in military units, in the light of the positive results of their work and their economic, political, and military significance.

The party will make every effort to make sure that 30 percent of the delegates to the Third Congress will be workers directly connected with material production. The rest of the delegates will be made up of service workers, peasants, professors and teachers, professional men, technicians, newsmen, artists and writers, members of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior, political and government leaders, among others.

Now, 26 years after that glorious 1 January, the Party Central Committee urges the workers, especially their organized Marxist-Leninist vanguard, and the people in general, to preserve the gains that have been achieved and to continue to advance in the construction of socialist society.

The Central Committee calls upon the invincible working class, the peasants, the manual and intellectual workers, the women, the students, the Communist Youth and the pioneers, the members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior, the entire revolutionary people, to double efficiency in production and defense.

Production must guarantee future growth, the discharge of commitments undertaken, the optimum utilization of the country's resources, and maximum savings of energy and raw materials.

Special attention must be devoted to everything that contributes to increasing and diversifying exports and replacing imports and that must be viewed as the center of our activity. The fields of health, education, and culture will continue to improve their quality; the fatherland's security and defense capacity must continue to be strengthened so as to turn the year of the Third Party Congress into a period of new and important successes.

In summoning the most important meeting of Cuban communists, the Party Central Committee expresses its certainty and confidence that the people, rallying around our party with greater strength than ever before, will reaffirm their revolutionary awareness and enthusiasm through the

accomplishment of the tasks outlined by the 10th Central Committee Plenum; they will develop enthusiastic and vigorous competition in honor of the Third Congress; they will harvest new successes in all branches of economic and social construction; they will continue to strengthen the country's defense capabilities and they will march toward the meeting with that unique moment in the country's history with an unquenchable fighting spirit, with the same heroic stubbornness of the Cuban people of the last century, the revolutionaries who fought for complete liberation in the neocolonial republic, those who worked, fought, and fell throughout these 26 years for a worthy, unwavering, and internationalist fatherland.

Long live the anniversary of the Cuban revolution!

Long live proletarian internationalism!

Long live socialism!

Long live Marxism-Leninism!

Forward! On, to the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba!

Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba

[signed] Fidel Castro

Fidel Castro Ruz, First Secretary

5058

CSO: 3248/214

GUATEMALA

ROBERTO CARPIO ON DCG POST-ELECTION POLICIES

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Jan 85 Sunday Supplement pp 6-7

[Interview with Roberto Carpio Nicolle, president pro tem of the National Constituent Assembly, at his home; author and date not given]

[Text] Six months after the installation of the National Constituent Assembly, as the first step toward the return to democracy, there appears to be a general consensus, with few exceptions, that presidential elections will be held in 1985. The political parties are gearing up to launch a serious election campaign in February, in their quest for power. Barring unforeseen circumstances in the Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG), the party's ticket will probably be made up of Vinicio Cerezo and Roberto Carpio Nicolle, running for president and vice-president of the republic, respectively.

To talk about the political situation, we requested an interview with Carpio Nicolle, who is also president pro tem of the National Constituent Assembly.

It is noon, and he welcomes us into his home in Zone 15. His library contains various collections of classical and modern books, as well as documents and papers. In one area are the titles "Hacia donde va Belice" and "Belice punto y aparte" [Where Is Belize Headed? and Belize: A New Beginning], which he authored. Although he is overwhelmed by the problems of the Assembly, he says that he still finds time to continue work on another book on Guatemalan politics.

He takes us to the living room, where we are offered a cup of tea. He explains that the tea is grown in the hills of Oro de Atitlan.

Roberto Carpio Nicolle cannot be described as an aggressive politician. Rather, he fits in with studious men, those who meditate on problems to seek immediate solutions. He is one of the founders of Christian Democracy (DC), and ran for mayor of Guatemala City in 1970 and congressional deputy in 1974. He coordinated his party's presidential campaign in 1978, and ran for vice-president of the republic in 1982. Now, he is a deputy in the National Assembly after having headed the national list of candidates. Married, with four daughters, he graduated from Rafael Landivar University with a degree in political science. This will be the second time he has run for vice-president.

After a few jokes about the doublet and hemlock they reportedly want to give Deputy Mauricio Quixtan, we got down to business.

[Question] What is your opinion of the current political situation?

[Answer] I would like to state that the Christian Democrats object to what has been done. Our objectives are aimed at creating a modern society that is more just, more humane, in which all Guatemalans have the greatest opportunity to achieve a better standard of living. Fortunately, at this time the people are gaining confidence in the situation, despite the political manipulation of the past few years which resulted in several acts of fraud against the DC. There is no denying, however, that there may still be residual resentment about that.

And if we talk about the National Assembly, at this time we intend to establish the necessary directives and build our credibility so that we can do our part to aid the political process in the drafting of the Constitution and constitutional legislation, without which the process would fail. In this way we will be able to return to the rule of law and to call the general elections that society has been anxiously awaiting. If we manage to take these two steps, we will have laid the cornerstone of democracy, and thus we will have given Guatemalans a different way of looking at life from the institutional point of view.

[Question] If the DC were to become the ruling party, on what would it base its program?

[Answer] We feel that national problems should have integral solutions. Security cannot be achieved without legal backing and legitimization. We cannot imagine a state of peace and social tranquility if adequate opportunities have not been provided to meet society's real needs. In 1979 the DC warned that development had been accelerated but uneven, and that to sustain it we needed to rectify these errors. It was also observed that wealth was concentrated disproportionately, and that the successive governments were not legitimized by the proper exercise of democracy.

At that time our words were received with indifference. Today, 4 years later, we are undergoing the worst economic crisis in 30 years. Fortunately, the people recall our statements perfectly well, and because of our party's solid democratic credentials and the fact that it has not been in power, today the DC is the political party with the greatest credibility. It has a solid platform that will provide a short-term solution to national problems. We are confident that the economy will recover as a result of government programs that include incentives for private initiative and attractions for international capital. Our ties with friendly countries will be utilized well to seek new markets for our non-traditional exports.

We insist that this country must change to keep pace with progress and to ensure the well-being of the population. Among the immediate goals is the creation of at least 30,000 jobs in the first year, and the elimination of the unemployment problem over the 4-year term.

To this we must add support for microindustry, which is capable of opening up another 25,000 jobs a year, and measures to help people obtain more flexible credit, with preferential interest rates.

Furthermore, the legal conditions will be created to ensure political and religious freedom for Guatemalans. In addition, highways will be built, educational and health plans will be reformed, and new sources of energy will be sought. The mineral resources that have been abandoned for so many years will be utilized better; it should be recalled that Guatemala is a mining country more than an agricultural one.

The goal will be diversification, rather than concentration, and private and public investment will be reoriented in order to boost productivity. A new industrial policy will be devised that is more in keeping with Guatemala's situation, giving priority to the use of national raw materials.

[Question] What position will the DC take on foreign investment?

[Answer] First we will seek to protect national interests, and then we will be open to foreign investment as long as it adheres to modern legislation aimed at ensuring cooperation and mutual benefits.

[Question] What is your view of the possibility of agrarian reform?

[Answer] We should begin with the idea that a political stabilization process and true democracy are impossible without an adequate rural development policy. We agree that economic matters are not the only considerations in this area; there are also political and strategic implications. The country must finally achieve adequate productivity, however, and all should benefit equally, with no damage to anyone. The transformation will be just and equitable. Uncultivated land will be used, and cooperatives and agricultural enterprises will be encouraged more.

This kind of program will result in integral development, with financing, technical assistance and continued supervision.

[Question] What are your thoughts on the democratic process?

[Answer] As Jacques Maritain sees it, democracy is less and less a form of government, and more a way of life, even a state of mind. Within its structure, social groups take actions that produce continuous communication in which each group serves a social function, and the balance of power is well established; the government serves the people, who express their will through popular suffrage. There is also equality before the law and justice for all, and individual opinions and thoughts are respected. Violence is rejected, and the people believe in their institutions. The democratic society advocated by the DC is like the scale of justice: On one side is the private sector in its role of generating wealth and productivity, and on the other side is the public sector keeping the system in order. Each one has its own social role.

We believe in a perfectible society that can improve day after day, and in respect for the rights of man. Without such respect, society can become violent and its government autocratic.

[Question] Why do you support the concept of private property as a social function?

[Answer] Because all property should have that function. The principle of freedom for mankind requires individual rights, which are indispensable for ensuring the predominance of the individual. The right of private property is clearly distinguished in this principle, and should be stimulated, supported and promoted.

In the communities where property is not owned by a small minority or a state monopoly, social life is based on identification with the whole, stimulation of production and preservation of property, which contributes to social tranquility.

It should also be recognized that along with political democracy, economic democracy must be promoted as a vital element so that all people can have the same choices. This has been the key in defeating the Marxist-Leninist materialist model that calls for monopolistic ownership of property by the state and the suppression of private property. To the extent that property is privately owned throughout society, democracy is consolidated and there is respect for the dignity of people who yearn for property and preserve it for personal and family goals.

No one is trying to take anything away from anyone; we are trying to incorporate in the Constitution a clear idea of the function of property ownership, just as this terminology has been adopted in the constitutions of Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, El Salvador, Spain, Germany, France, Italy and other Western democracies.

[Question] What is your greatest aspiration as a politician?

[Answer] That my experience as a person and as a member of a Christian Democratic government will contribute to the achievement of social peace and development in this country. I recall the words of a philosopher who said that "peace comes only after war." I think that this country deserves the best, and we have had enough violence. We Christian Democrats are willing to make the greatest sacrifices to bring about the peace that the people of Guatemala yearn for. And if we talk of the individuals who may be elected by the people, perhaps it is worth mentioning that the art of governing will replace the action of giving orders as such. This activity requires creativity, dedication, innovation, order and rules. And above all, it requires personal freedom within the social framework.

We must build a new country with a national identity that stems from a social consensus, in which each sector (the army, the government, the private sector, the university, etc.) fulfills the role assigned it. I would also like to say that we Christian Democrats are prepared to govern.

[Question] And what stance would a Christian Democratic government take with respect to the army?

[Answer] The army is in power today because we suffered a coup d'etat. When free elections take place, it will be because the army has decided that the conditions are favorable for a return to democracy. That is laudable, since the people have the right to choose the government they want, and no one else should make that decision. In the elections of 1 July, this idea was well received among Guatemalans and international public opinion. I believe, then, that when the reins of power are turned over, it will be because the army has decided to stop opposing the people's desire to put the country on the road to democracy. At that time, if the Christian Democrats form a government, our relations with the army will be cordial, because the army will make the decisions that fall within its purview and we will make those that fall within the art of governing.

[Question] There are still reports of human rights violations in the country. People are still disappearing and dying, and no more is heard of them. Do you think there is government repression?

[Answer] Lamentably, in all countries of the world, even those with a democratic tradition, there are human rights violations. Guatemala, which has undergone a long period of violence of all kinds, is not immune to these circumstances. Personally I do not know who in this country is responsible for the cases you mention. Unfortunately, history itself accuses us, and rightly so, because in the last 20 years our society has suffered a great deal in this specific area. But there is great hope for improvement in respect for human rights at this time. I am certain that when the DC takes office, respect for the law will be regarded as the best way to protect Guatemalans. The tragedy we are experiencing will come to an end.

[Question] It is said that the center-right alliance, the Revolutionary Party (PR) and the Reformist National Party (PNR), may have been involved in a plot to take power for 20 years. What do you think of this affair?

[Answer] My party has acknowledged that it was invited to take part in this plan, and it refused because the plan involved restricting the people's freedom to elect their leaders. We declined that invitation, and denounced the plan at the time as an affront to Guatemalans' individual and collective freedom of elections. On the other hand, I know only that there was an alliance between the PR and the PNR, but I do not know the intimate details of the case. I can assure you, though, that this alliance has not been consolidated. Not only is there the possibility of a change, because some major groups within the PR and the PNR were not consulted, but at least one sector of each of these parties is with the DC now, because their ideology is much more consistent and compatible with ours. I already said it on one occasion: The top echelons are one thing and the rank and file another.

[Question] How do you view the country's economic crisis?

[Answer] It is the worst we have had in years. The flight of capital, corruption and poor public administration have been aggravating factors. We

have regressed 10 or 12 years in economic development. Whereas the GDP grew by 6.4 percent in 1974, the 1984 forecast is for negative growth, beginning at -1 percent and possibly going lower once the statistics are broken down. Unemployment has also worsened; prices have surged in an inflationary spiral that rises day after day; the government had a deficit of 330 million quetzals and cannot find a way to balance fiscal revenues and spending in the budget; the domestic and foreign public debt totals more than 3 billion quetzals, and the country's total debt exceeds 5 billion quetzals, given that our international monetary reserves were reduced to zero at the end of the year.

The DC has formulas to solve the economic problem. We feel that after 4 years we will be able to leave Guatemalans with a country in good economic, financial and political health. In short, the people are confident that with the DC in power, peace will be possible.

8926

CS0: 3248/213

JAMAICA

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS PERSIST; VOTERS LOSE CONFIDENCE

London LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL REPORTS CARIBBEAN in English 18 Jan 85 p 3

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Edward Seaga publicly remains very confident about the prospects of the Jamaican economy. In a statement anticipating the latest quarterly report of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), he declared that the performance of the economy over the first half of the fiscal year indicated that the targeted reductions in the budget deficit and balance of payments had been comfortably achieved. The fiscal deficit for April and September 1984 had shown a J\$15m improvement over target and the net international reserves an improvement of US\$125.4m compared with a fall of US\$113.4m over the same period in 1983.

Seaga went on to praise the people of Jamaica for the heroic sacrifice which they were making to overcome the accumulated problems of the past. 'There can be some satisfaction,' he said, 'in knowing that the sacrifice is not in vain but is beginning to produce results.' The eventual arrival of the long-awaited gains from the rigours of his economic policy has now become Seaga's main political message.

He must know, however, that in this respect he still faces an uphill struggle. The PIOJ report revealed that the performance

of the Jamaican economy had been better in 1984 than expected, but said that this would reduce the range of negative growth only from -2 - 3% to -1.5 - 2.5% over the previous year.

One projection where performance was worse than anticipated concerned inflation, as measured by the consumer index. This rose by 19.4% during the fiscal half-year, paving the way for an increase of some 30 - 35% for the full year.

For the moment, therefore, 'talking up' the economy's prospects is perhaps Seaga's only option. He will certainly have been encouraged to find his optimism matched by that of David Rockefeller, joint chairman of the US-Jamaica Business Committee on Investment and Employment and the former head of Chase Manhattan Bank. He recently told a group of top foreign and local businessmen that his confidence was based on his observation that the necessary steps had already been taken to secure future growth and development. He implied, like Seaga, that the benefits would not be long in appearing if only the Jamaican people would continue to have confidence in their government.

■ Political impact

Meanwhile, a lot more evidence has appeared in the latest Carl Stone poll about the impact which the country's economic situation has had on the electorate. The findings of the poll, which was conducted in September, were published just before the end of the year and caused quite a controversy.

The reason for this was that the poll revealed weaknesses in the support for both major parties. For the government the bad news came in connection with present voting intentions. Asked, 'If a general election were called now, which party would you vote for,' the answers were: People's National Party (PNP) 38%, Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) 26%, Workers' Party of Jamaica (WPJ) 2%, uncommitted 34%. From the government's point of view, this compared favourably with figures recorded by Stone at the time of the December 1983 election: PNP 39%, JLP 32%, WPJ 3% and uncommitted 29%.

However, from the point of view of the PNP, the most alarming finding was that, despite the massive cost-of-living pressures that have followed the successive devaluations of the Jamaican dollar, no less than 54% of those interviewed responded that Seaga was running the country better than, or as well as, Manley did in the 1970s. According to Stone, this reflected the residual doubts in the country about the PNP's ability to govern. Something of this can clearly be seen in the fact that the PNP, although still well ahead, lost 1% of its support between December 1983 and September 1984. The JLP lost 6% too, but that all went to the uncommitted.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT MOVES TO IMPROVE INCENTIVES FOR INVESTORS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The Government is in the process of amending three laws to make incentives to investors more attractive, according to Government sources.

They are the Export Industry Encouragement Act (EIEA), the Hotel Incentives Act and the Motion Picture Industry Encouragement Act.

Under the EIEA in its present form, a primary consideration for eligibility for one of its major incentives--"the straight 10-year tax holiday"--is that the capital investment be sizeable. Secondary considerations are foreign exchange earnings, employment, local value added and technology potential.

In light of enquiries being received from smaller investors the amendment according to Government officials is (a) examining ways of allowing more flexibility in the period of tax holiday as well as (b) attempting to provide more attractive incentives to companies based not only on the size of the capital investment but also on the contribution they can make in terms of foreign exchange earnings, employment, local value added and technology.

The section of the Hotel Incentives Act that stipulates the list of items that hotels can import duty free is also under study, the Government source said. Recommendations have been made by the Mining and Tourism Ministry for extension of the list to include such items as computers and video sets to enable the hotels to provide a better service, the source said.

In its present form the Motion Picture Industry Encouragement Act only provides incentives for recognised motion picture producers. In the amendment provisions are to be made for (1) Jamaican companies wanting to produce films and (2) for companies wanting to provide facilities for filming.

Among the requirements for a company wanting to produce films to qualify for the incentives it (1) must be registered in Jamaica; (2) must own the right to the film (3) the script must not detract from Jamaica's image abroad.

Eligible companies will (a) be allowed to import film equipment on a temporary basis duty free or without posting a bond, (b) be allowed 9 years free of income tax from the date of the first distribution of the film abroad providing the profits are brought to Jamaica.

Companies that are registered in Jamaica and want to provide facilities for filming such as studios and equipment but which will not themselves be engaged in production will be allowed to import all material and equipment free of four duties: import duty, stamp duty, and consumption tax and retail sales tax. They will also be allowed 170% investment allowance which they can write off anytime they chose.

CSO: 3298/353

JAMAICA

DETAILS CONCERNING PRICE INCREASES ON VARIOUS PETROLS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF GASOLINE, diesel motor oil, diesel bulk oil and cooking gas came into effect at midnight last night.

Premium and regular gasoline as well as diesel motor oil went up by \$1.91 per gallon, while the price of cooking gas jumped by \$16 per 100-lb cylinder. The price of kerosene oil went up by 68 cents per gallon, and that of diesel bulk oil by \$1.90.

Under the new price regime, premium gasoline moves from \$8.99 to \$10.90 per gallon; regular moves from \$8.75 to \$10.66 per gallon; diesel fuel oil from \$5.99 to \$7.90 per gallon; diesel bulk oil from \$5.90 to \$7.80 per gallon, kerosene oil from \$3.82 to \$4.50 per gallon in rural areas, and in the Corporate area from \$3.71 to \$4.39 per gallon. The last increase in the prices of petroleum products was on January 1, 1984.

A release from JAMPRESS last night said that the increases were decided on by the Cabinet yesterday.

The release said that the increases "are the result of the change in the rate of the Jamaican dollar, from \$3.40 to US\$1, when the price of petroleum products were last fixed one year ago, to approximately \$5 to US\$1 at the present time. As a result, more Jamaica dollars are now required to import each barrel of crude oil, from which petroleum products are manufactured."

It added: "To ensure that the minimum increase reaches the consumer, the Government has not increased its tax revenue, and has reduced the tax percentage normally charged in order to make this possible."

Transport Fares

The release said further that at a meeting with Public Transport operators at Jamaica House yesterday, the Prime Minister advised them that any application for fare increase should be made to the appropriate authority. No unilateral increase should be carried out, he emphasised.

Attending the meeting were representatives from the Portmore Minibus Service; Diamond Transport Limited; Jamaica Minibus Association; Bloomfield Jamaica; Betta Transport; Stage Carriage Minibus Association; JUTA; and Moore's Transport.

Another meeting is scheduled to be held at the Ministry of Public Utilities and Transport on Friday, January 18, to continue the discussions, the release said.

CSO: 3298/353

JAMAICA

NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER OUTLINES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER HERMAN RICKETTS said yesterday that top police officers had no excuses not to perform under his leadership, because they had got training, and he expected performance.

Commissioner Ricketts said: "The leadership of the Jamaica Constabulary Force in this period will not have the luxury of the excuses which were available to many of my predecessors, as everyone in the High Command at this time has been well trained, many both professionally and academically, and are therefore expected to operate on a higher professional and management plane.

"No ad hoc approach to management and leadership will be tolerated by those we lead, or indeed, by the wider Jamaican society. The investment of time and money that the country has made in people like me will require an exact accounting of my stewardship."

Mr. Ricketts who took over as new Commissioner on December 23, was speaking at an official ceremony welcoming him by all ranks at the Police Academy at Twickenhen Park in St. Catherine.

He said his priorities were: (1) the selection process for applicants to the Force (2) the training, and education of these persons (3) personnel management practices (4) relationship of the police with communities and (5) police/press relations.

In regard to recruitment, Mr. Ricketts said members of the Interview Boards will be given specialized training in the techniques of interviewing applicants who present themselves for the Force.

The Selection Board for the final interview will be chaired by an Assistant Commissioner, in charge of training, who will be assisted by two other officers and a psychologist or psychiatrist.

In regard to training and education, Commissioner Ricketts said they had developed a comprehensive programme to meet the needs of the Force.

A training branch had been set-up with an Assistant Commissioner in charge, who will identify training and educational needs of the Force, and

develop and recommend to the Commissioner and his Council of Deputies, policies for implementation.

In regard to modern personnel management, Commissioner Ricketts said an officer with appropriate qualifications had been identified and put in charge of this area.

"Members of the Force have serious personal concerns and they need to be aware of a better system that can respond to those concerns in a humane and civilized manner. Their careers need to follow more predictable paths and they need to get more satisfaction out of the work they do."

Concerning community relations, Mr. Ricketts said this was an area of concern.

"There is a hostility for the police in certain communities and in others, crime and subversion."

Commissioner Ricketts said the former Public Relations Division had been re-named the Community Relations Division, "and the work of this Division will be more relevant and responsive to the need to improve the police/community relations. An officer of Superintendent rank who has just returned from an intensive course in this and other related areas had been put in charge of the this Division."

In regard to police/press relations, Mr. Ricketts said he would work with the press "in a congenial and frank manner, subject only to the constraints of security and sensitive considerations."

"I ask the press to be understanding of these considerations, which place limitations on our giving of full information of many matters, and to honour and respect any matter conveyed to them by the powers that be regarding the state of national security."

Mr. Ricketts said the challenges did not lie with the police alone, and citizens had a part to play.

He said without security there could be no human progress.

"I appeal to all law-abiding persons to support us in the effort to lift the quality of the Police Force. It is your Police Force. You pay for it, hence you are entitled to efficient and courteous service. Do not hamper the process by your apathy or by a cynical attitude to the Police."

We promise you a Police Force destined to return to its past glory and set behind us the ravages of the past. We have dedicated men and women to do their work 'without fear or favour, malice or ill-will.'

Commissioner Ricketts said: "I salute the hard-working and honest members of the Force and while I do not subscribe to the castor oil image, especially in these days of primary health care, I will not hesitate to seek after, and after due process, rid the Force of those who would seek to drag its name into the gutters."

JAMAICA

TOP GUNMAN AMONG FOUR KILLED BY ST THOMAS POLICE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] **PORT MORANT, S.T., Jan. 8 (From our correspondent):**

FOUR MEN WERE SHOT AND KILLED by the police in a shootout at Danvers Pen, St. Thomas, and three M-16 assault rifles and a .38 revolver, along with ammunition, seized last night.

Dead are Leroy Edwards, alias "Copper Reds," of White Hall district, St. Thomas, on the police most wanted list, and a reputed gang leader operating out of the Wareika Hills and other sections of east Kingston; Byron Lee, and Junior Taylor, also called "Alphanso," both of Seaforth, St. Thomas.

The fourth was unidentified.

Reports are that members of the Flying Squad on special assignment were on foot patrol in the area when they heard shots.

The police patrol went to investigate and saw a motorcar approaching from the direction of the shots and they signalled it to stop. The occupants of the car opened fire, the police fired back and the vehicle came to a halt.

After about half an hour of shooting, which started about 9.30 p.m., the four men were all found with gunshot wounds and the police seized three M-16 rifles with 70 rounds of M-16 cartridges, a .38 Colt revolver with four spent shells and two live rounds and a pair of binoculars.

The four men were taken to the Princess Margaret Hospital where they were pronounced dead on arrival.

Apparently the men had opened fire on a passing mini-bus which alerted the police. The men were travelling in a blue Austin Cam-

bridge taxi, reports say.

The Police Information Centre said that Edwards, operating out of the Wareika Hills in east Kingston, had taken over leadership of a gang which had membership from Wareika Hills, Seaforth and adjoining areas in St. Thomas.

He had taken over the Seaforth gang in December, after the leader Delory Davidson, alias "Bobby Reds," a gunman who had eluded several police dragnets, was shot dead by a member of the gang at Whitehall on December 23.

Police were seeking Edwards in connection with the death of Davidson. He was also wanted for questioning in connection with several cases of murder, rape, robbery, housebreaking and larceny committed in the Corporate Area and St. Thomas.

Police sources said he had fled to St. Thomas after security forces made intensified efforts to flush out criminal terrorists from the Wareika Hills in the latter part of last year.

JAMAICA

AIR JAMAICA LOSING MONEY FROM CUBAN OVERFLIGHT BAN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 11 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Air Jamaica has been losing thousands of dollars of aviation fuel as a result of Cuba's on-and-off refusal to allow the national airline to fly over its airspace.

A spokesman for Air Jamaica confirmed reports reaching the Gleaner that last month two Air Jamaica flights were refused permission to fly over Cuba, although a telex had been sent in respect of one.

The flights involved were a normal scheduled flight 028 to Miami on December 18 and an "extra section" flight 2019 to New York on December 19.

"Cuba just refused over-flight permission and they have not told us why," the spokesman said yesterday.

The flight to Miami was a normal scheduled flight while the New York flight was not. The spokesman added that Cuba had been advised of these flights way ahead of time.

The New York flight had to return to Kingston where aviation fuel was dumped into the sea before landing for the aircraft to be refuelled. Fuel was not dumped from the 028 aircraft but the plane had to refuel to facilitate flying around Cuba from Kingston.

Dumping of fuel, the spokesman explained, had to be done to achieve the maximum landing weight of the aircraft. Another way to achieve this weight is also "to burn" the fuel off by cruising in the air.

On occasions when Cuba refused permission for Air Jamaica to fly over, the aircraft involved has to put to waste between 10,000 to 20,000 pounds of fuel; and on its return journey, it must fly around the eastern tip of the communist state.

The Gleaner understands that the airline is losing thousands of dollars in aviation fuel when entry in Cuba's airspace is refused, following a normal "call in" to the Cuban authorities from Air Jamaica's pilots.

JAMAICA

GLEANER COMMENTS ON MOTIVES, SPIRIT BEHIND U.S. AID

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 85 p 10

[Editorial]

[Excerpts]

In his New Year message, President Forbes Burnham, in imploring Guyanese to battle to establish Socialism in the face of what he called hostility from the United States, said that his people should appreciate the realities of the world and of the hostility that every success engenders from those "who feel that we must always be satellites." He also claimed that there were those — he seemed to be referring to the USA — who were opposed to the very concept of Guyana's democratising, and therefore changing what he called "our historical economy and society"; and he also categorised those who opposed Guyana, particularly the USA, as those who would have Guyana dependent on "their arrogant charity."

There is no question that the people of Guyana have suffered a severely depressed economy for a number of years, and President Burnham had no great hope for 1985 except one of tightening the belt.

We should like, however, to comment on the phrase "arrogant charity." Regrettably, there are some who assist the United States in its foreign policy, who bring back memories of the Ugly American, the image of the USA of the 1950s which was highlighted by a brilliant book and an equally brilliant film in which Marlon Brando played the part of the ugly American diplomat.

There is indeed a difference between those who, in helping their country to help others, behave as if they felt they were in charge of other countries, and those who behave as if they are really guests willing to help as much as possible. It is to be hoped that for the future of the hemisphere and for democracy in the world that increasingly those who behave as guests willing to help in other countries, will gain the upper hand, for it would be bad for democracy if the assistance from the USA and from other Western nations can be justifiably said to be 'arrogant charity.'

CSO: 3298/353

JAMAICA

ONE MINISTRY SELECTED AS PILOT FOR EFFICIENCY EXPERIMENT

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 6 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION has been selected as the pilot ministry for the application of new management and financial systems under the Administrative Reform Programme.

The programme was launched recently to bring about greater productivity and efficiency within the Public Service, says a JAM-PRESS release.

Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, made the announcement at Jamaica House on Friday morning following a meeting to review the progress of the programme. He said that this was part of the new thrust by the Government to structurally adjust the management and financial systems of the public sector. He said the new management programme would be tested in the Ministry of Construction starting this month.

Mr. Seaga said that Government had been engaged for the last three years in a programme of structural adjustment of the economy "and as we come to the end of that adjustment the next phase of adjustment will now encompass the development of our human resources and strengthening our management and financial systems."

The programme of Administrative Reform which has been in progress for the last nine months, he said, involved adjusting the management systems of the two central Ministries of the Government, the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Ministry of the Public Service.

The Prime Minister noted that the Administrative Reform Programme which was announced by him in his Budget Speech in May last year, aimed at making the performance of the entire public sector more efficient and productive as well as enhancing the prestige and morale of the Service.

In order to achieve this, he said, the central agencies of the Government must develop the capacity and technique to operate under improved financial and human resource management reforms.

The Financial Management Reform component involves better coordination of all the various departments involved in financial administration and re-organising the structure of the Ministry of Finance to give greater control to the Financial Secretary.

JAMAICA

PLANNING INSTITUTE WILL GET BOOST FROM IDB GRANT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Jan 85 p 2

[Text]

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a technical assistance grant of US\$634,000 to Jamaica to strengthen the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and other public sector entities.

This new grant supplements a previous one of just over US\$1.3 million, approved by the IDB in 1982.

The PIOJ, formerly the National Planning Agency, is using this second grant to contract consultants to strengthen its technical capabilities, and that of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica. Some of the funds will be spent on upgrading the management and administrative procedures of the Ministry of Construction, the National Water Commission and the Jamaica Public Service

Company.

The PIOJ will also purchase computer equipment, including microcomputers, printers and supplementary equipment from the new grant.

The duties of the consultants will include on-the-job training and the organisation of formal training courses for PIOJ staffers.

According to the IDB, the project has been estimated to cost US\$2,767,780 of which it will provide US\$1,983,600 and the Government of Jamaica will provide the equivalent of US\$784,180.

The first grant under the project is being used to improve the country's micro-planning activities and the system of national accounts. It is also being used to assist in the development of modern management techniques in several public entities.

CSO: 3298/354

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

NEW MINIMUM WAGES--New minimum wages which were announced last May by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, came into effect yesterday. Since last May, the Government has separated the National Minimum Wage into two parts: one being a minimum rate for household workers, including maids; and the other being a minimum rate for other workers including those employed in factories, offices and agriculture. The new rate for household workers which became effective yesterday are \$52 per week, or \$1.30 per hour, with overtime being \$1.95 per hour for work over eight hours per day and \$2.60 for work on rest days and public holidays. Household workers work up to 44 hours at single time rate before overtime commences. The minimum rate for the other categories went up to \$1.50 per hour, or \$60 per week, with overtime being \$2.25 per hour for work done over eight hours per day and \$3 per hour for work done on rest days and public holidays. Prior to Mr. Seaga's announcement last year, the National Minimum Wage was \$30 per week or 75 cents per hour. At that time the rate for household workers was raised to \$40 per week, or \$1 per hour, while the rate for other categories of workers was put at \$1.15 per hour, or \$46 per week. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 8 Jan 85 p 1]

CSO: 3298/354

MEXICO

OPPOSITION: DISRESPECT FOR ELECTION RESULTS, VIOLENCE LINKED

Domestic Democracy, Contadora Contrasted

Mexico City LA NACION in Spanish 15 Dec 84/1 Jan 85 p 8

["Statement by National Executive Committee of National Action Party on State of Mexico elections," dated Mexico City, 22 Nov 84]

[Text] 1. President Miguel de la Madrid has claimed--and he repeated it in his meeting with us on the 14th of this month--that he is determined to promote democracy in Mexico.

2. The elections held in the state of Mexico on Sunday the 11th of last month, like those held in San Luis Potosi a few months ago and in other states last year, prove the contrary.

3. The facts prove that beginning in Chihuahua and Durango, the administration represented by President Miguel de la Madrid is determined to prevent any advance of democracy to the extent that that advancement is manifested in the increasingly solid support of the people for the National Action Party (PAN); it is very significant that no other party has had to face as many obstacles as PAN has. The cases of Coaxomulco, Tehuacan, Tezuitlan, Uruapan, Zamora and a few others, have only been exceptions to this pattern.

4. This was evidenced in the state of Mexico, where only in the 44 municipalities where we participated--which represent 80 percent of the state's total population--the government headed by Alfredo del Mazo devoted all of its capacity for fraud and repression to the expulsion of most of PAN's representatives from the polls, the withholding of the names of its candidates until the eve of the election, the theft of ballot boxes, the opening of electoral packets (as in Naucalpan, 48 hours before the computer), and the endless arbitrary actions by the "auxiliaries" of the commissions, of the Secretariat of Government and of the henchmen of the official party, the government itself.

5. National Action expresses to the entire republic its praise for the far-reaching and exemplary--often heroic--effort made by our candidates, representatives, leaders and citizens in these 44 municipalities. Precisely because their decision to assert their right to have legitimate authorities was so

firm and tenacious, they posed a real threat of overthrowing the system and its candidates, and the government was forced to outdo itself as a systematic violator of the people's will. Wherever PAN did not participate, the government did not have to resort to such measures. The great merit of the people's participation with National Action in these 44 municipalities, regardless of the abuses they suffered, lies in that persistence which has enabled the country to progress, albeit with many difficulties, toward a truly democratic system. This has been the harsh history of the last 45 years, always with National Action.

6. National Action has never promoted violence as a form of political expression, but we warn the administration--as we told the president of the republic in the aforementioned meeting--that closing off the civilized channels for dissent from the group in power, which is what honest electoral processes possessing respect for the right to the authentic suffrage fought for in 1910 must be, would be to open the floodgates of destructive violence.

7. We are determined to support the people of the state of Mexico in the defense of their political rights, specifically the citizens of San Bartolo Morelos, Cocotitlan, Juchitepec, Chimalhuacan, San Martin de las Piramides, Temascaltepec, Ayapango, Apaxco and Tequisquiac, among others, because the violation of the people's right to vote should not be tolerated, much less now that the Mexican Government is recommending, through the Contadora Agreement, the democratization of public life in other countries.

Mexico, 22 November 1984

National Executive Committee
Pablo Emilio Madero Belden, Chairman
Deputy Bernardo Batiz Vazquez, Secretary General

PAN Guerrilla Orientation Denied

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Dec 84 pp 4-A, 16-A

[Article by Joaquin Paredes]

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, 25 December--Pablo Emilio Madero categorically denied that the National Action Party "is a nest of guerrillas," and asserted that "we will rise to power through democratic channels" because PAN members "are enemies of violence." He noted, however, that violence may erupt when the will of the people is cynically violated.

He added that Mexico is prepared to conform to a pluralistic will, although he warned that "the system and its official party (the Institutional Revolutionary Party) do not understand that the surest way to overcome the present crisis is by establishing democracy and fully recognizing the electoral victories of the opposition political parties, through the vote.

Interviewed in the library of his private home in this city, the former presidential candidate complained that there is a complete inconsistency

between what is said and what is done, especially when it is announced that the vote will be entirely respected.

He said that some government officials "act like political bosses with pitchforks and knives, backed up by the government [passage omitted] vigorous action against the proliferation of electoral fraud.

He said, "The road is not easy--we know that. The road is uphill all the way, and our patience has not yet run out."

"We are civilized; we expect to reach power through civilized channels, and we know that it is a difficult, rocky road that is uphill all the way, full of provocations. But PAN is a political institution that respects the Constitution and the rule of law. PAN is not a nest of guerrillas."

He explained that the PAN members who want to "speed things up" can give vent to their frustrations by participating in party organization. "In no way will we fall into the trap of violence."

He ended by asserting that PAN does not seek to gain electoral advantage from the irritation generated by the social cost of the crisis, "because we feel that we cannot solve Mexico's problems by building up social rancor, and because these problems must be solved urgently. PAN will not build its political future on the discrediting of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), concluded Pablo Emilio Madero.

Sonora Candidate Issues Warnings

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 31 Dec 84 p 1-B

[Text] There will be violence in Nuevo Leon also if, as in Coahuila, the decision of the people as expressed by their vote is not respected, stated the National Action Party's candidate for governor of Nuevo Leon yesterday.

The states in the north of the republic have been noted for beginning movements for social progress in Mexico, said Fernando Canales Clariond.

"The events that took place in Coahuila are an indication that this society has decided to obtain the government it deserves. It will make sure its vote and the rule of law are respected, and that the democracy that was lost many years ago is reinstated," he added.

Canales Clariond was interviewed with regard to the violence that broke out in Saltillo, Monclova and in Piedras Negras to protest against the errors of the Electoral College, which decreed the victory of the PRI candidates for mayor when the voters claimed that the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM) and PAN won, respectively.

"The only one to blame for the violent events is the so-called Mexican Political System and the person in charge of it," he said.

Anyone who concludes that democracy is dead in forums for expressing the will of the people, or in closed-door meetings with religious, business or union leaders, is sadly mistaken, he added.

"True democracy lies in the participation of all the people," he contended, "lofty people as well as humble, anonymous people who want to make their voices heard through suffrage and want their decision to be respected."

He indicated that President Miguel de la Madrid's promises to respect the vote and recognize the electoral victories of the opposition have been broken.

"It is unfortunate," he said. "The maximum leader of the country should have credibility, and there should be consistency between what he says and does. If he behaves this way in the political sphere, how will he behave in the economic sphere?" he asked.

"What worker will respond to the call for increased productivity, what businessman will respond with higher investments, and what bureaucrat will respond with greater honesty when the chief of state does not keep his word?" he added.

The will of the people has been flouted on many occasions, he said, and it is not surprising that violence erupts.

"In 7 months there will be elections of federal deputies across the republic, and of governors in seven states," he indicated.

"There is still time for the president to decide that his attitude has not been the proper one for the political leadership of the nation."

If he persists in believing that power is a monopoly, there will be serious consequences throughout the republic, he reiterated.

"Stuffing the ballot boxes or falsifying the vote count is not a political joke to be depicted in cartoons," he said, "it is an affront to national dignity."

If these practices continue, he stated, the political-economic future and the tranquility of the nation will be seriously jeopardized.

"This is not the fault of the people or of the parties," he indicated, "it is due to the lack of historic vision on the part of the current government."

He said that National Action does not intend to perpetrate any violence, which is completely reprehensible.

PSUM: Generalized Violence Possibility

Monterrey EL NORTE in Spanish 31 Dec 84 p 11B

[Article by Fernando Martinez]

[Text] The violent events that took place in Coahuila because the government did not respect the popular vote are an indication of what could happen in Nuevo Leon during the next elections, said Lucilda Perez Salazar, state leader of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), yesterday.

"Moreover, if the government does not modify its conduct and its gangster-style methods," she warned, "there is a risk that the violence could spread throughout the country."

The result could be a situation of dangerous political instability, because there is a limit to everything, and the voters and the citizens are expressing their protest through the vote.

If the government continues its policy of not respecting the people's will, she stated, the people may express their disagreement through social unrest.

"The only one to blame for all that would be the government," she said.

The government of the republic, she noted, should respect the right of suffrage, but it persists in closing off legal channels to the opposition parties in Coahuila.

"There is a mutual agreement between the state authorities and the federal authorities," she asserted.

Governor Jose de las Fuentes Rodriguez, said Perez Salazar, has been in a weak position for some time, and has proven to be incapable of governing the state.

"The violent events in Coahuila," she said, "are displaying his incompetence."

At this point it would be very difficult to accept his resignation, she said.

"He has been one of the most ineffectual governors Coahuila has ever had," she indicated.

The PSUM leader stated that in 1985 two factors will move to the forefront: the crisis, which will continue to worsen, and the political confrontation, which will heighten in the clamor of the electoral campaign.

She indicated that Nuevo Leon will be the scene of one of the most heated political contests.

"The strife and the delay in revealing the PRI candidate indicate that things are not going so well for that party."

PRI has lost its popular support, she contended, not only because of the economic crisis, but also because of its anti-democratic, manipulative and gangster-style procedures and practices.

"It has very little to offer the people of Nuevo Leon and of Mexico."

Perez Salazar stated that the program it is pursuing is practically the same as that promoted by PAN.

The situation that has emerged, she said, is very advantageous to the real opposition (of the right and the left), that is, those who oppose PRI and the government.

"We must not forget that the people may express their dissatisfaction with this state of affairs at the polls," she added.

The left can and should advance, she said, because its platform is viable and it opposes the government's and PAN's platforms, which are basically the same.

When the new year begins, the dispute over political positions will also begin, she noted, not only in the electoral area but also in the labor and social spheres.

"This year there may be surprises," she stated, "and a change in the relationship of the different forces in the country and in Nuevo Leon."

She indicated that 1984 has ended with a negative balance for most Mexicans, who saw their wages lose nearly half their buying power, and also lost not a few political liberties.

She explained that this situation resulted because the government and PRI flouted the people's will, as expressed through the vote, with impunity.

Admonition by PAN's Madero

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Jan 85 pp 1-A, 17-A, 29-A

[Article by Carlos A. Medina]

[Excerpts] Leon, Guanajuato, 13 January--The real political battle has already begun in Mexico, and the people, tired of seeing their civil rights abused by the system for 50 years, may resort to acts of violence in 1985 if the government does not accept its electoral defeats through democratic channels and suffrage, stated Pablo Emilio Madero here.

The leader of the National Action Party (PAN) indicated that in the political campaigns that will take place this year in seven states to elect state officials, his party will use the errors of the system to convince the electorate that change is urgently needed.

At a state convention attended by more than 500 people, PAN announced that its candidate for governor of this state will be Dr Juan lopez Sanabria, who

asserted that he will defeat Rafael Corrales Ayala of PRI in a clean election, and that he will not allow his triumph to be denied by electoral fraud.

The convention delegates chose Lopez Sanabria from among three candidates. His opponents within the party were Dr Antonio Obregon Padilla, a local deputy, and Federal Deputy Salvador Romero Estrada. After the first round of voting at the convention, they decided to withdraw from the contest, and it became apparent that Lopez Sanabria would be the winner.

Before the assembly, Madero told EXCELSIOR that Mexico is regressing in the area of elections, because the vote is not respected, the people are not listened to and violence has become somewhat institutionalized because the system itself provokes, supports and stimulates it by stealing ballot boxes and expelling opposition representatives from the polls.

Madero added that all the opposition parties, regardless of ideology, have enabled Mexicans to become more aware of the problems that affect them, and that only through suffrage will it be possible to change an obsolete and corrupt political system. He expressed agreement with the idea of all the opposition parties uniting to defend the popular vote and forming a common front against PRI.

As for the selection of gubernatorial candidates, the PAN leader stated that no candidate will be imposed on his party. "He does not come from Mexico City; we do not announce his name in Mexico City; it is here, before all Guanajuato residents, where his fate is decided by those very people.

PAN's political campaign, he added, will not make use of slander or personal attacks, and much less will it capitalize on the fall of Governor Enrique Velasco Ibarra. Rather, it will stress to the electorate the errors of the system and will alert the people to the fact that refusing to recognize the victories of the opposition "is a clear indication of the political backwardness in which the dominant oligarchy is mired, and of the risk we run in democracy; we must know how to win and how to lose."

Lopez Sanabria, who was nominated by an overwhelming majority, stated for his part that he holds Rafael Corrales Ayala in the highest esteem, personally and intellectually, and that his political campaign will be based on convincing the people of Guanajuato that PAN is the only option for governing Guanajuato properly. "Corrales Ayala is a great man; I have known him for many years, and it is too bad PRI had to be the party to run him. That is a great blot on his record."

Lopez Sanabria, considered a born leader of PAN in this state, is 64 years of age. He has been a federal deputy twice, and is said to be well known in all sectors of Guanajuato society.

So far no policy has been formulated for an electoral coalition with the Mexican Democratic Party (PDM), he said, but he did indicate that as the PAN candidate he may initiate talks and agreements with that party, as well as the PSUM and other opposition parties, to defend the vote.

He added that because of information available to him, he cannot describe the governments of Velasco Ibarra and Tellez Cruces as corrupt, but at the federal level that has been proven. He stated that he will not seek the support of the Church, because "we have a lot of differences with it," he said, and he intends to wage a house-to-house political campaign. "It will not be a symbolic campaign for the record, but a campaign aimed at making me governor of the state." Later on he added: "I can assure you, I will be the next governor of Guanajuato."

8926

CSO: 3248/200

MEXICO

STATE OF MEXICO: PAN PROTESTS, TOWN HALL OCCUPATION CONTINUE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 9 Jan 85 p 18-A

[Article by Jose Antonio Huicochea]

[Text] Toluca, Mexico, 8 January--The political unrest that has plagued some municipalities in this state has broken out again.

Residents of San Martin de las Piramides gathered in front of the town hall to demand "respect for the agreements;" in Almoloya de Alquisiras the city hall is still being occupied by protesters; and in San Antonio La Isla the populace is threatening to take over the city headquarters once again.

Led by former Deputy Victor Guerrero of the National Action Party (PAN), residents of San Martin de las Piramides held a demonstration in the central plaza of this city to demand that the Office of Government comply with the agreements which led them to cease their previous occupation of the city hall recently.

Guerrero Gonzalez commented that it had been agreed that seven positions in the city administration (chief of public works, treasurer, chief of police, secretary of city government, head of the System for Complete Family Development, public recorder and justice of the peace) would be given to this group. He added, however, that the agreements were not honored; "although we abandoned the city hall, they reneged on their promise."

"This situation could well lead to violence and confrontations in this place, if the government does not comply with the agreement."

Meanwhile, in Almoloya de Alquisiras, it has been 14 days since the town hall was taken over by the citizenry in protest against Mayor Leopoldo Benitez and in favor of Habacuc Castaneda, the former municipal president who has been accused of embezzling 30 million pesos.

Local residents have repeated that they will not leave the building until there is a direct dialogue to find a solution to the problem.

Likewise, in San Antonio La Isla, Deputy Juana Reyes of the Socialist Workers Party (PST) reported that if the pact with the Office of Government is not

honored, locals will occupy the city hall once again to exert pressure so that the agreement will be carried out.

Specifically, she said that the people who had occupied the building left when they were promised some posts in the city government, but when the protesters were removed, the government backed out on the deal.

She concluded that the unrest has become widespread in this city, so "if there is no definitive and genuine settlement, this week the city headquarters will be occupied again."

8926

CSO: 3248/199

MEXICO

LEFTIST ELECTORAL ALLIANCE PLANS FOR VARIOUS STATES SET OUT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Jan 85 p 7-A

[Article by Angel Soriano]

[Text] The Leftist Alliance not only will try to run its own candidates for deputy seats in the Federal District, but will also try to run them in much of the country. It is even considering the possibility of running candidates for governor, stated Eduardo Montes of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM). The Popular Socialist Party (PPS), meanwhile, stated that the alliance's unity is not a passing phenomenon; it is backed by the conviction that pressure must be exerted in order to change the country's course to protect the underprivileged.

Montes stated that in Sonora the PSUM will form a coalition with the Mexican Workers Party (PMT) and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) to run a candidate for governor; it plans to do the same in other states of the republic, but the decision rests exclusively with the state committees, and depends on the prevailing conditions in each state.

Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, speaking on behalf of the PPS, indicated that the party will run its own candidates in Sonora and San Luis Potosi--yesterday the state assembly was held in the former state--but it is willing to enter alliances with other leftist parties in other states. Such decisions will be made over the next week, when the names of the party's candidates running for federal deputy seats in the 40 districts of Mexico City will be discussed.

The common electoral platform to be presented by the leftist alliance has already been approved. It consists basically of a demand for change in the economic policy so that wage-earners do not bear the brunt of the crisis, but rather the powerful sectors of the country are made to carry the burden by means of a far-reaching fiscal reform program that would tax their earnings and reduce their privileges.

It was explained that so far the same five organizations (PSUM, PPS, PST, Socialist Current and the Communist Left Unity) are participating in the Leftist Alliance for the Federal District, and no proposal has been made to include other groups such as the PMT, PRT and the Socialist Labor Party (POS).

The PSUM spokesman confirmed, however, that it is engaged in talks with the PMT and the PRT, though not the POS, which wants to hold a national convention of the left at which agreements would be made in this regard. Such a proposal is not viable, he stated, because political agreements must be made prior to holding such an event. The PSUM spokesman reiterated that it intends to form an alliance without exclusions.

The Leftist Alliance will be completely formed during the course of this week, "because we cannot wait any longer; besides, the talks are at an advanced stage," stated Eduardo Montes. He noted that his party will hold its internal assembly from 2 to 27 February, and there it will decide on its candidates. This will in no way affect the alliance, because "we will simply make the necessary adjustments to the agreements made."

At present the only proposals not accepted by the alliance are those submitted by the POS and the PRT, which in turn do not accept those of the other five groups. Thus, it is assumed that they will not participate, except that the PRT will participate with the PSUM in local alliances in some states of the republic.

The PMT reported that in February its national assembly will decide whether or not the party will participate in an alliance with the rest of the left.

8926

CSO: 3248/199

NICARAGUA

HUMBERTO ORTEGA ON HISTORICAL BASIS OF SANDINISM

Havana CUBA SOCIALISTA in Spanish Sept/Nov 84 pp 34-47

[Article by Cdte Humberto Ortega Saavedra, member of the National Directorate of the FSLN and Nicaraguan minister of defense: "Notes on the Sandinist Platform and Program"]

[Text] These notes have been written in the interest of contributing to the knowledge that our people have been accumulating on different aspects of our revolutionary program. These notes are nothing more than a small step out of the many that our historical researchers and revolutionary leaders must take so that our revolution will have more scientific, broader and more in-depth analyses in the future to contribute to a more integral and revolutionary formation, especially of our courageous and combative youth.

1. The anti-imperialist philosophy in Nicaragua at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th can serve as the starting point for the programmatic platform that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] erected in the 1960's and 1970's, the present government program that our Popular Sandinist Revolution promotes as well as the revolutionary program that the FSLN has drawn up now to give continuity and to deepen the revolutionary process of change begun on 19 July 1979. This program will also guide our people in the electoral campaign in November when they will be able to reaffirm their popular power.

2. The fight against the Yankee filibuster expansionism in the middle of the last century fueled--with the blood of our people--the anti-imperialist ideas and actions at the end of the last century and the beginning of this one in the field of arts or the battlefield by people like Ruben Dario and Benjamin Zeledon. Jose de Marcoleta's patriotic denunciation or the brave fists of Jose Dolores Estrada, Andres Castro, Enmanuel Mongalo, Juan Santamaria and other patriots in that libertarian feat continued to live in men like Zeledon who hoisted their banners and died clasping them.

Dario's Legacy

3. "...We are the sentimental race but we have also been masters of strength. The sun has not abandoned us and rebirth is typical of our age-old tree." Ruben

Dario wrote this in 1898 in an article entitled "Caliban's Victory." In Ruben's literary wealth, we can find the anti-imperialist spirit of our people and their unyielding rebellion and thirst for social justice.

In 1892 Ruben Dario wrote "Why?". Its profound social content which was used by the FSLN as an inciting manifesto in the fight against tyranny strengthened our programmatic battle legacy.

Carlos Fonseca, main researcher of our rich history from a revolutionary viewpoint, showed that document to Rufo Marin and me when we were in prison in Costa Rica in 1970. He indicated that it had to be publicized under the subtitle "Ruben Dario, anti-Somozist," a task that he carried out.

Excerpts from Dario's "Why?" include the following: "Does the large fish eat the small? Soon we will make up for this. Abject poverty prevails and the worker carries the burden of a curse on his shoulders. Nothing counts but wicked gold. The disinherited are the eternal herd for the eternal slaughterhouse. Don't you see that moneybags in his fancy shirt as if it were made of porcelain and that stiff girl wrapped up in silk and lace? Meanwhile, the daughters of the poor have to become prostitutes at 14....The bandits have taken over the banks and the stores. Shops are martyred for honesty. They are only paid what the tycoons feel like paying them....Isn't that political enigma that the poets sing about and the orators extol called democracy?...Then cursed be that democracy. That is not democracy but disgrace and ruin. The misfortunate suffer a rain of plagues; the rich enjoy. The ever venal and corrupt press only sings the unchanging psalm to gold....The masters are harsh with those who serve them. The masters in the city and the country are tyrants....The spirit of the lower classes will become incarnate in an implacable future avenger....All the tyrannies will collapse: the political tyranny, the economic tyranny, the religious tyranny. The priest is also the ally of these scourges of the people. He sings his Te Deum and prays his Our Father more for the millionaire than for the misfortunate....The statues of the bandits who oppressed the humble will be broken...."

These thoughts by Dario, along with others in his vast work, constitute Ruben's contribution to the historic weave of the people's revolutionary platform and program in the fight for our national and social liberation.

Benjamin Zeledon

4. The imperialist nature of the United States at the beginning of the 20th century, the continued thirst for imperial domination which U.S. expansionism represented by William Walker showed in our fatherland in the past century, meant the suffering of little Nicaragua because of destruction and death. Men like Benjamin Zeledon and Augusto C. Sandino, leading the people, rejected this with energetic action as well as energetic thought.

We find the basic elements for the development of our revolutionary program of struggle in the anti-imperialist struggle and against the oligarchic and bourgeois traitors--both liberal and conservative--that our people fought in the 1920's and 1930's. A vital achievement of those days of heroic and unequal

struggle against the Yankee aggressor is the deep revolutionary meaning that Sandino especially gave to the defense of sovereignty, self-determination, internationalism, social emancipation, popular democracy and economic transformation as well as the pride and dignity of the Nicaraguans. All these elements and others are a direct legacy for the platform and program of the Popular Sandinist Revolution which the FSLN established both to take power and to defend it now.

5. The following thoughts by Benjamin Zeledon were expressed in the heat of the anti-Yankee battle. They were part of the General Order of 10 August 1912 given in the Tipitapa headquarters. In them we find elements of the historic program of our people: "Breezes of freedom will refresh the beautiful country of Nicaragua. The old mother bent by poverty, the child pale from want, will be saved. The humiliated, exploited poor, jeered at by an insolent oligarchy, will have bread for their hungry mouths and clothing to cover their cold, naked bodies. We have reached the day of independence. The prolific craftsman, mover of the nations, will be able to work with complete independence. The farmer will work the prolific land....Those who robbed the national treasury will return what they illegally took....Our sons, our brothers will have schools. Universal public education--the seeds planted in all the souls--will serve as effective support during critical times in their lives....Without freedom, there is no life. Without equality, there is no light. Without national autonomy, chaos reigns. We have fought, then, and we will fight so that freedom gives us life, so that equality gives us light and so that effective national autonomy, reconquered, eliminates the chaos in which we live.... There will be no more intervention in our internal affairs. Customs will be administered by Nicaraguan or Central American hands....We fight for equality, freedom and national autonomy. We want the people not to die from hunger. We want the exploiters, the men who degrade us, to disappear....We want everyone to enjoy freedom, the craftsman to enjoy his work and the laborer to cultivate the land without danger. We want brotherhood everywhere to give beneficial results like a blessing from God....Last and above all, we want the national sovereignty symbolized by that blue and white flag to be effective with no winds of intervention lowering it...."

Sandino's Program

6. In Sandino's struggle of the 1930's, we find the basic political, economic, social, international, moral and military aspects of our revolutionary program. They have been developed by Carlos Fonseca at the head of the FSLN based on a meticulous analysis of our national reality and the just and correct incorporation in our struggle of the revolutionary experience of different peoples of the world in the common fight against imperialism, exploitation and the oppression of man by man.

7. The breakdown of historic parallels and the defense of sovereignty against Yankee aggression were problems in Sandino's statements. Comrade Sergio Ramirez indicated: "...The fight against the occupation troops implies by necessity a fight against historic parallels. Liberal and conservative parties are two concepts that are irrevocably tied. To Sandino, ending the Yankee intervention and throwing out the invader also meant ending these historic parallels.

...Thus the Sandinist political plan always mentions a new party...that represents the new social forces. Its main feature is to be an anti-imperialist party...."

That embryonic party was the Army to Defend National Sovereignty made up of workers, miners, agricultural workers, small farmers, craftsmen, students and professionals commanded by Sandino. That new party with the same rebellious and revolutionary people is the FSLN which overthrew the Somozist dictatorship and guides the people in their revolution.

8. Sandino's statements cover: the recovery of all natural resources, the mines, the forests and the planned inter-oceanic canal; the development of agriculture and communication; integration between the Atlantic and the Pacific; an agrarian reform based on nationalization of the land and the organization of peasant cooperatives; an independent foreign policy based on the anti-imperialist alliance of the peoples of the world, especially Latin America and Central America; a broad horizon of internationalism; maintenance of the army of the people; deep respect for national historic values and for those who died in battle; and a deep and determined rejection of exploitation, oppression and humiliation.

Dignified and not cowardly peace, a single front to stop the invader, confidence in the U.S. people, the joy of fighting without personal ambition, a great spirit of brotherhood, sacrifice, human solidarity and dignity are also important features of General Sandino's statements which the new generations in the FSLN have inherited and developed.

Carlos Fonseca's Guide

9. The Nicaraguan revolutionary movement of the 1960's and 1970's, under the secure guidance of Carlos Fonseca, through hard and bloody revolutionary work convincingly and correctly laid the bases for our general platform of struggle and the Popular Protest Program for the overthrow of the Somozist dictatorship and the taking of power by the armed people.

10. Dozens of letters, statements, interviews, manifestos, writings while underground or in jail, circulars, analyses of our battle, study circles, reports on the development of the struggle and the situation of our organization, memoirs of soldiers like Santos Lopez or Rigoberto Cruz, papers at international forums on our revolutionary work and other means of communication gradually permitted the FSLN to organize its statements until taking a very important qualitative leap in 1969. Under the leadership of Carlos Fonseca and Oscar Turcios, our general battle strategy, the Popular Protest Program and the statutes of our vanguard organization, the FSLN, were drawn up.

11. Carlos Fonseca's leadership ability permitted the different theoretical and practical contributions of the first contingents of Sandinists during those years--1960 to 1969--the casualties and the survivors, free or in prison, to be considered in the analyses that the bulk of the FSLN cadres did clandestinely in Costa Rica. This gave our struggle a more consistent strategic guide.

Carlos Fonseca had the ability to passionately, affectionately and respectfully collect the contributions and ideas of the most humble or educated Sandinist militants like Colonel Santos Lopez, Rigoberto Cruz, Carlos Reyna, Ivan Sanchez, Jorge Navarro, Silvio Mayorga, Julio Buitrago, Casimiro Sotelo, Francisco Moreno, Selim Shible, Roberto Amaya, Edmundo Perez and so many other brothers who by 1969 had already sacrificed their young, brave lives.

12. Writings by Carlos Fonseca since 1958 included: "A Nicaraguan in Moscow" and "The fight for the transformation of Nicaragua" in 1960; "Brief analysis of the popular Nicaraguan fight against the dictatorship" in 1961; "From jail I accuse the dictatorship" and "This is the truth" in 1964; "Sandino yes, Somoza no" in 1966; "Message to the students" in 1968; and other proclamations and writings. They clearly show us the gradual development of the ideas and statements of the FSLN until reaching more defined strategic documents in 1969 like the Popular Protest Program. This was based mainly on a document drawn up by leader Oscar Turcios in Korea in 1968 when we were taking a military course in that fraternal country and on different writings by Carlos Fonseca that year, including the rough draft of "Nicaragua, zero hour."

13. That same year, 1969, Carlos Fonseca made a public proclamation and announced "the FSLN program, the program of the People's Sandinist Revolution." He stated: "At this time, we are only going to mention the titles of the 15 points in our broad program:

- "1. People's guerrilla combat
- "2. People's power
- "3. Special plan for the most neglected Atlantic coast and region
- "4. Land for the peasants
- "5. No more exploitation or poverty
- "6. Emancipation for women
- "7. Administrative honesty
- "8. People's patriotic army
- "9. Revolution in culture and education
- "10. Respect for religious beliefs
- "11. Independent foreign policy
- "12. Abolition of the Chamorro-Bryan treaty
- "13. Central American peoples' unity
- "14. Solidarity among the peoples and

"15. Veneration of the martyrs.

"We will tell you what type of international slogans we Nicaraguan guerrillas obey. We obey the international slogan that Augusto Cesar Sandino shouted from the mountains of the Segovias. We obey the international slogan that the glorious ashes of Ernesto Che Guevara sent out from the Andes. We declare that we are not afraid of the bullets of the enemy and the poison of the traitors. The inexorable path of world history demonstrates that the final victory belongs to the exploited and oppressed.

"The bullets of the enemy and the poison of the traitors will be conquered by the fire of the heroes and the blood of the martyrs...."

14. Other programmatic and statutory documents Carlos Fonseca helped write include: the 23-point Minimal Program of the FUN [Nicaraguan Unitary Front] approved in Venezuela in 1960, the Statutes of the MNN [New Nicaragua Movement] in July 1961 and the Objectives, Ends and Principles of the FLN [National Liberation Front] in January 1963. Other Sandinists like Jose Benito Escobar who was also in the MNN encouraged the JPN [Patriotic Nicaraguan Youth] in the 1960's. As Carlos Fonseca indicated, all these efforts were step by step leading to our historic vanguard under the name of FSLN in 1963. In January of that year, it was still known as the FLN as was stated in our organ TRINCHERA, No. 15 of 1963. In that underground issue some programmatic aspects, ends and objectives of our struggle were analyzed.

In the period from 1960 to 1963, the FSLN was started but it was not founded by decree on a specific day or year. During that process the first basic elements for the development of the future platform and program emerged.

Diffusion of the Program

15. Through the combative FER [Revolutionary Student Front] our vanguard, the FSLN, launched diffusion and massive study of the program among our people. The FER began this historic work in 1972 calling the historic FSLN program Sandino's programmatic legacy.

16. After being rescued from prison in October 1970, Carlos Fonseca fully embarked on the practical tasks of the struggle as well as deep meditation on different strategic elements of our process of struggle. He particularly focused on questions related to triggering a popular insurrection, its laws, methods, strategy and tactics beginning in 1972. At that time, Carlos promoted analysis by the different cadres and militants in the FSLN of aspects like the military art of insurrection, the war of the people, the combative history of our people, the national economic and social reality, the national and international political situation and the complex organizational problems of our vanguard and the masses.

17. The FSLN revolutionary statements were announced to all the country and the world through the bold action of the Juan Jose Quezada Command on 27 December 1974. Led by heroes Eduardo Contreras and German Pomares, it rescued Sandinist leaders Jose Benito Escobar and Daniel Ortega, among others, from prison.

18. The savage repression by the Somoquist tyranny could not prevent the spread of the Sandinist statements, its program and general objectives among all the people in the countryside, mountains and cities of the country. Our statements were also endorsed by the peoples of the world, including forces in Latin American governments.

Platform of October 1977

19. In October 1977, the FSLN began the uninterrupted political and military offensive that culminated with the great national insurrection of the people that overthrew the Somoquist tyranny on 19 July. In May 1977 we drew up the document "General Political-Military Platform of the FSLN for the Victory of the Popular Sandinist Revolution." Some of its important points included:

To develop and properly adapt our Popular Protest Program (minimal program) to the current needs of the anti-Somoquist and patriotic struggle;

To promote our revolutionary work among the masses--mainly in the most combative and strategic labor, peasant and petit-bourgeois sectors--for the insurrection against the tyranny;

To strengthen our intermediate mass organizations, redoubling the creation of underground mechanisms that permit systematic coordination between the vanguard and the masses;

To promote in practice the creation of a broad anti-Somoquist front of all the anti-Somoquist sectors, parties and mass organizations in the country including the opposition bourgeoisie;

Since the political government at this phase means unleashing the insurrection through armed struggle, our political and protest work with the masses must be directed toward the organization and mobilization of all the people to develop the armed struggle;

To strengthen our Sandinist army in the mountains, the countryside and the city to the maximum and to combine the different Sandinist Armed Forces tactically and strategically in order to strike in coordination and simultaneously at a certain time and in a certain direction;

To remember that in the insurrection, an in-depth, solid and simultaneous offensive against the enemy plays a decisive role. Parallel to the offensive, the Sandinist movement must establish the conditions for organized retreat without falling into routs or disorganized retreats when it is necessary to retreat;

To constantly work to break up the ranks of the National Guard and other Somoquist sectors of the bureaucracy and government; and

To strengthen the traditional unity of the Sandinist movement, knowing how to be consistent with our broad popular masses that unite and mobilize around the revolutionary struggle of the FSLN.

20. Immediately after the October 1977 Sandinist offensive, the Group of Twelve was formed. Openly endorsing the FSLN, it publicized the programmatic document "The 12 Points of the Twelve." It noted the battle program and tactics of the FSLN.

21. With the rise of the anti-Somozist struggle in 1978, the FSLN distributed its program massively through different means. One version in language comprehensible to the humble people was entitled "Why the FSLN fights along with the people."

22. In November 1978, the MPU [United People's Movement] endorsed its minimal program of 15 points or demands. A political alliance of 14 revolutionary organizations, parties, union groups, progressive women, professionals, etc., gave life to the MPU, strengthening the struggle headed by the FSLN. All the demands presented by the MPU complemented or agreed with the FSLN's historic program.

23. Radio Sandino contributed notably to diffusion of our battle program from the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front. There was progress in the difficult clandestine task of printing and distributing the program of the people. The Sandinist publications and solidarity committees distributed it abroad.

Government Proclamation

24. On 18 June 1979, the first proclamation of the Government of National Reconstruction, government called for by the FSLN, was issued from some place in Nicaragua.

In that proclamation, the Government Junta of National Reconstruction announced the basic features of its government political, economic and social program. In this way the FSLN, practically at the moment power was conquered, responded to the popular aspirations of the strong people, the people of Dario, Zeledon, Sandino, Rigoberto and Carlos Fonseca.

25. Today, in a better internal and external political position than in the past, the people of Nicaragua in power since 19 July 1979 have been making the dreams of Sandino and Carlos Fonseca come true. The fighting people are little by little rebuilding the country. The historic program materializes with faith. The aggression and inherited backwardness are conquered. They do not give up facing the exhausting and sacrificing days needed for the economic and social transformation to guarantee the future for our children.

The Electoral Process

26. The historic program of the FSLN is again taken up by our people in the electoral process of November 1984. This time it is to guarantee the fulfillment of the Sandinist program that has been implemented during the 5 years of popular government despite the Yankee-Somozist aggression. There must be continuity to consolidate and deepen our popular and revolutionary program, consistently defend independence and national sovereignty by arming all the people, continue our struggle for peace, improve and perfect the popular democracy

and the freedom conquered, strengthen our economic and government administration--keeping the good and discarding the bad--construct a real national economy, continue making a single Nicaragua from the Atlantic to the Pacific, strengthen and consolidate the people's ownership area, continue advancing in the agrarian reform, continue efforts to raise the standard of living of the working people--their work, food, housing, transportation and health--strengthen economic leadership and the mixed economy and continue the efforts to carry education, culture, sports and recreation to all the people so that our children can continue to smile in a free, dignified, proud, new, revolutionary fatherland, in a Sandinist fatherland.

7717

CSO: 3248/202

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

UPM STATEMENT CRITICIZES U.S. CENTRAL AMERICAN POLICY

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 16 Nov 84 p B

[Text] The United People's Movement (UPM) has issued a statement expressing "grave concern over the deteriorating situation in Central America and in particular the threats and stepped up aggression against the people of Nicaragua by the Reagan administration."

UPM's International Secretary Renwick Rose says in the release "Nicaragua has long expressed its desire to live in peace with its neighbours and has carried out this policy in practice even though acts of terrorism, murder and sabotage are committed against its people by armed bandits based in neighbouring countries who are financed and supported by the American C.I.A."

Rose's statement continues "Nicaragua has signified its unqualified support for the Contadora Peace Plan drawn up by four regional Governments none of whom could be considered as hostile to the USA or even "leftist". Yet it is the US which has rejected this peace plan and encouraged its close allies to do the same."

The UPM release points out that over eighty (80) per cent of the Nicaraguan people have cast their vote in what impartial international observers described as a free and fair election in favour of the Sandinista government. It calls on the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to urge its friends in the US Government to use restraint and seek a peaceful settlement of the Central American conflict including the withdrawal of all foreign military forces.

CSO: 3298/304

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

OFFICIALS REPORT ON MIAMI CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRY

DeFreitas Remarks

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 14 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] It was a 'big sell', is how State Minister in the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture, Marcus De Freitas, summed up the Industrial Promotion Conference in Miami to which he headed a delegation recently.

The Minister noted at a press conference that all the countries present were selling something. The Caribbean countries were selling to U.S. investors the opportunity to invest in their country, also they were selling the Caribbean environment for business. The U.S. on the other hand, was selling its services and technology to the Caribbean

De Freitas noted, that the conference gave him the opportunity to highlight St. Vincent and the Grenadines position though lacking in infrastructure as one of stability in relation to both the political and social environment.

Gunn Evaluation

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 14 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] "There are a lot of areas that can be taken advantage of by local entrepreneurs under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI)", so said Vice President of the St. Vincent Chamber of Industry and Commerce Richard Gunn.

Mr. Gunn was answering questions put to him over the telephone by the Editor of THE VINCENTIAN on his return from attending the Miami Conference last week.

Joint ventures in the manufacturing and assembly fields transfer of Technology, assistance in the development of infrastructure and the marketing of produce are the key areas which are open to locals.

In the field of Manufacturing, apparel, electronics, and agro-based products are in the forefront as well as the introduction of new developments in the farming of seafoods mainly shellfish. In connection with the latter, there is the Caribbean King Crab which could be economically grown locally and which is pretty well guaranteed a good market in the US.

Gunn was satisfied that the calibre and wide ranging interests of the team that attended the Conference created an excellent image of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Ministry of Trade, Labour Unions, the Development Corporation, the Marketing Board and the Chamber were all represented in Miami.

The Chamber is planning to hold a Public Forum shortly, so that its Members, as well as other interested persons, can obtain details of the CBI and what it offers this country.

CSO: 3298/304

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

GUYANA'S TENNASSEE SUPPORTS MITCHELL'S VOTING CAMPAIGN

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 16 Nov 84 p A

[Article by Elvis Ollivierre]

[Text] A call was made to Prime Minister Mitchell to continue talks with other Caribbean territories regarding his proposed Caricom Supervision of Elections.

The call was expressed by President of the Democratic Labour Movement in Guyana (D.L.M.). Paul Tennessee when he spoke to the media last Monday.

He said the D.L.M. and people of Guyana supported the move by Mitchell which could be the solution to the many crises the people live up to. The move can see the way to free and fair election for the suffering, hungry and harassed people of Guyana.

Speaking of Caribbean territories and Trade Unions within, Tennessee said Unity must prevail among them if success is to be attained.

Meanwhile, General Secretary of the National Workers Movement (N.W.M.), Noel Jackson told the media he is concerned that students and others exposed to the Radio Programme "Echoes" broadcast on the local Station Saturday 3rd November would have obtained incorrect information regarding the N.W.M.'s history, relayed by the host.

He said, "Even though we may try to correct it, the damage via the radio is far greater than we can hope to correct in a limited way."

Jackson was referring to statements saying the N.W.M. negotiated Vinlec only for along time then joined by waterfront And C.S.Y. and N.W.M. was formed out of electricity workers.

According to Jackson, the facts should be that N.W.M. started with waterfront division and was formed by waterfront and electricity workers.

CSO: 3298/304

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

SPARKS FLY OVER HOLDUP OF STARCH SHIPMENT; MITCHELL REPLIES

Government Victimization Charge

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 30 Nov 84 p 5

[Article by E. M. Richards]

[Text] In less than six months of the existence of the James Mitchell N.D.P. Government, vested interest within his Party is demanding a Lion's share in the Arrowroot Industry. East Caribbean Agencies, a Marketing Company whose majority shareholder is the junior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, is claiming sole Marketing rights for the disposal of St. Vincent's Arrowroot starch to Canada, U.S.A. Grenada, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. This has resulted in a Cabinet directive to stop a shipment of 37,500 pounds of starch destined to a Canadian Firm ACANA Mercantile Inc.

The very same mistakes made by the St. Vincent Labour Party by interfering with the people's Banana Growers Association and the Arrowroot Growers Association, this Government has fallen victim to the same pattern of behaviour.

Imagine that the Arrowroot Growers Association Board directed its Manager Mr. Ollivierre to ship starch to a Canadian Firm and Cabinet rather than demanding that the shipment be made against an irrevocable letter of credit at a reputable Canadian Bank, issued a directive to cancel the shipment and subsequently giving all sorts of frivolous excuses to cover up the protection of their family business. All members of the Board should resign for the Board now serves no purpose and it seems as though it is the intention of this Government to abolish the Arrowroot Growers Association.

The classic behind this Agency, or sole Marketing Agency affair, is that E.C.A. claims that the contract, if there is any such document available, was offered by the Cato Government but the implementation is now being made under the Mitchell Government.

We note that for the past several months the People's St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers Association has been marketing its starch without interference, but come a new Government, and sole Agency is demanded.

Overnight in St. Vincent and the Grenadines there seems to be emerging a new concept of the term Agency both in its legal connotation and its practical application. It is an accepted practice that Manufacturers abroad seek agents in this state to market their products eg. we have agents for cement, colgate tooth paste, motor vehicles, wines to name a few. Now how will we feel if Japanese Firms who are the makers of vehicles were to appoint another Japanese Firm to sell their vehicles in this country? Yet E.C.A. is claiming sole rights to sell our starch in the U.S.A., Canada, and elsewhere where they operate no offices.

If Son Mitchell does not want to see a recurrence of his 1972 to 1974 political Waterloo, he will have to rule with an iron hand, by starting now to discipline his young, inexperienced and greedy Ministers whose conduct though well meant could embarrass his infant Government which was conceived by the popular will of the people. If the Arrowroot Growers Association needs to be purged, formulate a new policy but for Heaven's sake, save the Industry from the wolves of opportunism.

Destabilizing Activities

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 30 Nov 84 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] Something strange seems to be going on with regard to public employees operating in a number of areas in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Labour Party has supplied the government of the country for about 15 of the last 17 years. A high percentage of the Civil Servants and other public employees got their jobs under a Labour Party regime. Affection for the Labour Party and nostalgia for the things that under its control enabled them to develop a mode of operation that was to their liking are very natural.

However, no one who does not place the nation first should be a public servant. Only a fool could believe that an employee can possibly be operating in the public interest who is putting his efforts into subverting the efforts of the administration, which is the only current hope for the solution of our problems, the improvement of our situation and the utilization of presently available means for progress.

Consequently we can presume that the people who are undermining the government and coating doubts on the veracity of its leaders are acting deliberately. The success of the policies of government is in the hands of the public servants who are hired to execute those policies. But besides translating the policies into eddicient action, there must be a responsibility for inspiring trust in the men who decide on the policies; for support must come from the rank and file of the nation if plans for progress are to materialise into facts of progress.

Examples of the occurrence of actions that tend to undermine the integrity of our ministers and the sincerity of their actions are not hard to find. One

recent incident was a statement by a senior official, which amounted to a contradiction of what the Prime Minister had said about the involvement of national Provident Fund money in the financing of the sugar industry. As far as we can remember there was no insinuation that the Provident Fund officials were in any way to blame for the poor investment of the Fund's money. We hardly think that officials of the Provident Fund would be invested in the minds of the public with the power to allocate National Provident Fund money to specific investment of their choice. Consequently it is difficult to understand the release claiming that no Provident Fund money was invested in the sugar industry. What happened apparently was that the money was paid into the National Commercial Bank and the BANK invested it in the sugar industry. It sounds to us ignorant mortals that the difference did not merit an erratum. An important aspect as far as we are concerned was what appeared to be insinuation of irresponsibility on the part of the Prime Minister. The action of the civil servant left much to be desired! Why did not the NDP officer ask the Prime Minister to explain the subtle difference to the public instead of rushing into prove him wrong publicly?

The recent incident with the stopping by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture of a shipment of arrowroot starch seems to be another case in point. Why did the manager of the arrowroot industry board put the government in such an unnecessarily unpleasant position? The marketing of arrowroot starch had certainly been placed in the hands of the East Caribbean Agencies. It had been placed by the Manager and Chairman of the Arrowroot Industry Association at the behest of the previous government--a Labour Government--because of the desperate position into which the industry had fallen, and the complete inability of the Board and its Executive Officer to find adequate markets.

Further if the ECA had obtained Canadian and US markets the company should in fairness have been left to develop them and earn a sales commission. But that was not the worst. The Board had sent off a big shipment of starch for which it had not been paid although months had passed. This is alleged to have resulted in a loss of \$400,000 to the industry. Surely it was up to the Government to protect arrowroot producers from a recurrence of this, by making certain of the credentials of companies offering to buy? In this case the credence of the would be purchaser had not been satisfactorily established in the eyes of Government and a recurrence of the previous incident was feared.

Obnoxious incidents appear to be occurring which seem aimed at discrediting the government--but in fact discredit the nation even more. They leave a nasty taste in one's mouth.

CSO: 3298/304

SURINAME

UDENHOUT VENTS ANGER OVER CONDITIONAL NETHERLANDS AID

The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 29 Jan 85 p 3

[Text]

P a r a m a r i b o, January 29 - Surinam's Prime Minister Wim Udenhout accused the Netherlands last night of meddling in the internal affairs of its former colony and of breaking the terms of an aid treaty signed by the two countries in 1975.

Udenhout told newsmen that if Surinam's rulers allowed the Netherlands to impose conditions for resumption of aid they would in fact grant the former colonial power a means of influencing Surinam's affairs.

'The moment that we allow that to happen ... we would be donning the shackles of colonialism again', he said.

Udenhout called for the unconditional resumption of Dutch aid to Surinam under the terms laid out in the 1975 treaty, which provided for aid payments of 3.5 billion guilders over 15 years.

The Netherlands suspended aid to its former colony following the murder in December 1982 of 15 prominent opponents of the military regime of Lieutenant Colonel Desi Bouterse.

The Dutch government has said that aid to Surinam will only be restored if there are concrete steps towards restoration of democracy in the country.

Dutch authorities said a democratisation plan put forward by Udenhout last month was 'inadequate' for restoration of aid, although further talks on the basis of these proposals have been planned.

Udenhout also announced last night that Surinam has opened a consulate general in Cayenne, the capital of neighbouring French Guiana, and plans one in Brazil.

CSO: 3200/26

SURINAME

BRIEFS

CONSUL GENERAL IN AMSTERDAM--Paramaribo, 29 Jan--Surinamese Prime Minister Wim Udenhout yesterday announced that Roy Colader, director of the Surinamese Van Bruynzeel timber concern sales and marketing division, is to be the country's new Consul General in Amsterdam. Udenhout told a news conference that there had been a number of complaints about the consulate, and efforts were being made to improve matters. He did not say what the grounds for complaint were. The current Consul General is Mr M.A. Blokland. Colader would arrive in the Netherlands 'shortly', Udenhout said. [Text] [The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 29 Jan 85 p 3]

CSO: 3200/26

END

END OF

FICHE

DATE FILMED

7 MARCH 85